

NEWSBRIEF



American Planning Association
Virginia Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

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Deadline

for fall issue is
September 3, 2010.

Innovation at the 2010 Annual Awards

By Kelly Kinahan, Henrico County, Virginia

During the Annual Conference in Norfolk, APA Virginia hosted the 2010 Planning Awards Luncheon highlighting innovative and progressive planning projects throughout the Commonwealth. With submissions more than double the 2009 total, the VAPA Awards Jury faced THE arduous task of selecting the outstanding planning-related efforts of this past year. The 2010 recipients represent an impressive cross-section of communities and individuals at the forefront of planning practice in Virginia.

Outstanding Planning Award Virginia Beach Comprehensive Plan, City of Virginia Beach



Virginia Beach is not only the most populous city in the Commonwealth, but also has wide range of planning issues to address with its comprehensive plan due to its substantial rural areas, vibrant waterfront and tourist community, and two major military installations.

The plan addresses these diverse issues through a policy document, technical report, and reference handbook. The policy document outlines the key planning recommendations related to land use, neighborhood preservation, transportation systems, natural resources, and economic vitality.

It also addresses directing growth in eight Strategic Growth Areas. The technical document provides spatial, demographic, and economic data for the city and specific subareas. Lastly, the reference handbook includes design guidelines,

Left: VA Beach Stakeholders. Photo Courtesy of Virginia Beach Planning Department. Below: Sketch of Northampton Boulevard in Virginia Beach, VA.

The City of Virginia Beach has once again created a first-rate update to their comprehensive plan. Previous updates to the plan, in 1997 and 2003, also received various awards and recognition. The Virginia Beach Comprehensive Plan is the outcome of a two-year planning effort that included extensive public outreach. Twelve open houses were held to help understand the planning issues most important to citizens, and three follow-up public information meetings allowed citizens to learn about the final plan draft prior to City Council adoption. The City also held numerous stakeholder group meetings and created an online public comment form.



a list of other plans and studies adopted as part of the comprehensive plan by reference, and an *Agenda for Future Action* to be used to help advance certain policies of the Comp Plan. The completeness and diversity of issues tackled by this planning effort represent a model for successful long range planning, relevant to both urban and rural settings.

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President's Message By Jeryl Rose Phillips, AICP

Greetings!

The Annual Conference is behind us and, from the feedback received, it seems to have been a very successful one. Be it in person, by follow up email, on the evaluation forms and or at the Annual Meeting breakfast, your opinion matters. It will be helpful in planning for future conferences and moving forward as a Chapter, in general. I enjoyed meeting many of you from all over the state and reacquainting with those whom I haven't seen in awhile; I even made a few pirate friends. It was a pleasure hosting you in my city. For those of you who arrived early and ran into a bit of chaos on check-in or got plunged into darkness on the 10th floor for an extended period of time (thank goodness for a frig full of beer) or some other floor, we are sorry... light rail and all of its collateral damage happens! Look on the bright side-- at least it wasn't a gas or water main explosion, as has been also known to occur during construction. Never a dull moment in Norfolk these days! We hope you can enjoy a ride on The Tide on your next visit.

This issue of *Newsbrief* features the 2010 Annual Chapter Awards winners, showcasing the best of planning and planning advocacy in the Commonwealth. Virginia seems to be on a roll at the national level, so by all means, if you won an award, please consider nominating it for a 2011 National APA Award. The 2010-2012 Board of Directors is also announced in this issue. Congratulations to the incoming Board, with whom I look forward to collaborating, and a heartfelt thank you to those outgoing Board members who have served the Chapter well from 2008 to 2010.

We appreciate everyone who took a few moments to complete the Membership Survey either at the conference or online. The Board and Section Directors will be reviewing the survey responses at the upcoming transition retreat in July. Based on this input, a new 2-year work plan and budget will be prepared that is responsive to what you've told us we need to improve upon, and do more or less of, to continue to bring or add value to your membership in APA Virginia.

We are excited to be offering another Chapter professional development opportunity in late September through a one and a half day Fall Symposium in Luray. Visit the Chapter website for more details about how to submit a session proposal. The Chapter will also be co-hosting the Mid-Atlantic Regional Roundtable in Wilmington, North Carolina at the end of September, in collaboration with APA's Regional and Intergovernmental Affairs Division. Registration details will be forthcoming for these events. The 2011 Annual Conference dates and location should also be announced soon. In the interim, check out the Sections map on our website under the "Member Resources" tab and then check in with your Section Director(s) to see what events they have planned on the horizon closer to home.

I hope you enjoy the summer months ahead and please continue to stay in touch as you can. It is always gratifying to hear from a member, be it a compliment or a complaint, and especially with a request for how to get more involved.

—Jeryl Rose Phillips, AICP

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Innovation (continued)

Planning Innovation Award

Mixed-Use/Mixed-Income Planning Grant Initiative, Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA)

The Mixed-use Mixed Income or MUMI Planning Grant Initiative is the latest tool from the VHDA that helps support affordable housing, encourage sound land-use practices, and “jump-start” potential revitalization efforts. These grants of up to \$10,000 are funded through VHDA’s REACH (Resources Enabling Affordable Community Housing in Virginia) program, and provide support related to planning and implementing mixed-use/mixed income developments. This innovative resource, available to localities, housing authorities, and non-profits, has been catalytic in assisting the early planning and conceptualizing of mixed use projects. In 2005-2006, VHDA awarded an initial \$5,000 pilot grant to the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority. “To date, the VHDA Mixed-Use/Mixed-Income Planning Grant Program has awarded 22 grants to assist planning efforts in a diverse array of communities ranging from small towns to larger cities. The planning grant initiative is part of a broader multi-faceted approach designed by VHDA to promote mixed-use/mixed-income development which includes project financing and training for groups engaged in planning and development,” according to VHDA’s Community Housing Officer Costa Canavos. Eligible start-up activities through the MUMI grant include: adaptive re-use study/renderings, asbestos report/preliminary design plans, survey of neighborhood site conditions/GIS mapping, structural building reports, and preliminary site master planning.

Planning Innovation Award (Honorable Mention)

Building the 21st Century Code: the Portsmouth Experience, City of Portsmouth

Innovative planning projects were plentiful throughout the Commonwealth this year, so much so that the VAPA Awards Jury also recognized the City of Portsmouth’s new Zoning Ordinance with a Planning Innovation Honorable Mention Award. In order to effectively implement the vision and goals set forth in its Destination 2025 Comprehensive Plan, Portsmouth, in conjunction with Clarion Associates, Wallace Roberts & Todd and Ferrell Madden & Lewis, took on the daunting task of updating its existing Zoning Ordinance. Portsmouth used five major themes, based on public input and data analysis, to direct the process: make the Code more user-friendly, streamline the development review procedures and process,

modernize the Zoning districts and uses, focus on development form and quality, and encourage compatible redevelopment. Additionally, the Planning Department solicited citizen input by creating an online comment form and conducting a Visual Preference Survey.

The outcome is a code that integrates both form-based and hybrid zoning techniques. A form-based district with a stand-alone regulating plan was created for downtown, and the code consolidates the previous 32 base districts into 19 primarily mixed-use districts. The new ordinance also eliminates unnecessary distinctions between zoning classifications, and expands the range of allowable uses to include new housing types like live/work dwellings, upper story residential, and two- to four- family homes. Other unique features of the ordinance include a tiered system of incentives for use of sustainable or “green building” techniques, and permitting low-intensity neighborhood-serving commercial uses to locate within the city’s higher density residential districts. The new Portsmouth zoning ordinance is an excellent example of a redevelopment code that can serve as a blueprint for other mature, built out communities seeking to align their zoning ordinance with historic development patterns.



Above: APA Virginia President Jeryl Phillips and Dr. John Accordino and his team of students.

Student Planning Project Award

Lakeside Avenue Revitalization Plan, Urban & Regional Planning Program Wilder School of Government & Public Affairs (VCU)

During the fall 2007 semester, members of Dr. John Accordino’s Urban Commercial Revitalization class completed a revitalization plan for the County of Henrico and the Lakeside Business Association. The Lakeside commercial corridor is situated immediately outside the City of Richmond in Henrico County, and is anchored by Bryan Park, a 262-acre public park, and Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, a state botanical garden. While Bryan Park and the Botanical Garden each draw hundreds of thousands of visitors every year, the business community in Lakeside faces a number of challenges, one being 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.” The students coupled the corridor’s existing challenges with a market study that considered future possibilities and recommendations for the area. The competitive market analysis revealed unmet demand for goods and services, as well as the possibility of 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

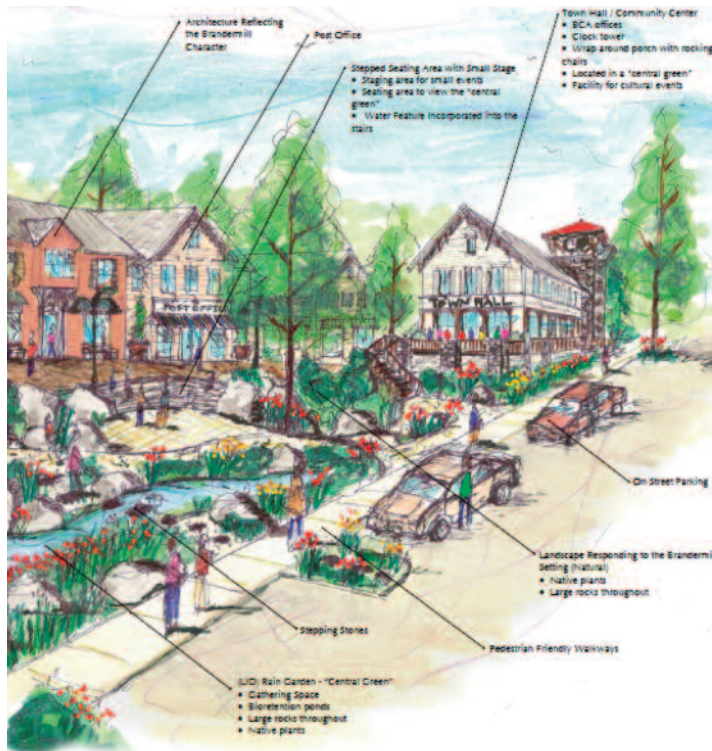
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Innovation (continued)

and girls' apparel, a specialty food store, a garden shop, a coffee/ice-cream shop, and a 1950s-style diner. The Plan provides a comprehensive look at the commercial corridor, considering the history of the area, the plans in place or pending, as well as a myriad of survey results to produce a realistic plan, and includes excellent mapping, organization, and analysis.

Private Sector Planning Award

Brandermill Master Plan, Design Forum



Above: Brandermill Master Plan, courtesy of designforum.

Recognized at the 'Best Planned Community in America' in 1977, Brandermill is located approximately twenty miles southwest of Richmond in Chesterfield County. This large, master-planned community is home to more than 13,000 residents, dispersed over 2,600 acres, and includes a variety of amenities such as Biking / Walking Trails, a Golf Club, a Tennis Club, Community Pools, and access to the Swift Creek Reservoir. When Brandermill was designed more than 30 years ago, developers sought to offer residents a resort-like atmosphere with world-class amenities, and a diversity of home styles and prices. By 2005, average property values in Brandermill fell below the county average, and numerous new residential communities had been constructed in the surrounding areas. These pressures, coupled with a desire to create a vision for the community, enhance the quality of life and value of property, and protect the integrity of the Swift Creek Reservoir as a source of drinking water, resulted in

the Community Association partnering with designforum to create a new master plan for Brandermill. Designforum focused on seven areas of the Brandermill community: 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. The master planning process included work sessions with the Brandermill residents, which resulted in valuable insights that helped formulate the core foundations of the master plan. With a focus on balancing community needs and natural resources, restoring community facilities, enhancing of mobility options, reclaiming vitality in commercial centers and community action, the Master Plan and associated Action Plan seek to again make Brandermill a choice community in the Richmond region and beyond.

Public Outreach and Engagement Award

Wanted: Public Input and Engagement, James City County

With a diverse population including a significant number of students and retired residents, the Planning Division of James City County developed a set of unique methods to ensure public input was a central part of the Comprehensive Plan update. The 2009 Comprehensive Plan, *Historic Past, Sustainable Future*, focuses on the importance of the County's rich historic heritage and resources, and seeks to ensure a sustainable future for the County – economically, socially, and ecologically. Public participation in the planning process was solicited using a variety of mediums- the internet, mail, phone, radio, newspaper, and several public meetings, known as Community Conversations. Additionally, a citizen-based group, the Community Participation Team (CPT), was designated to help lead staff and the Planning Commission through the review and update of the Comprehensive Plan. This group comprised of three Planning Commission members and seven citizens took on the important task of developing, encouraging, facilitating, and reporting citizen participation throughout the planning process.

In order to reach all sectors of the public, the CPT made public appearances on behalf of the Comprehensive Plan update, giving talks, taping public service announcements and television segments, and distributing flyers to the community at-large. The CPT also provided valuable assistance to staff, in addition to meeting weekly over a 12-month period, developing and coordinating the publicity efforts, crafting a report on the plan review process, and tabulating the citizen feedback.

At the end of the first stage of the Comprehensive Plan update, the CPT provided a binder of citizen feedback to the Steering Committee, which directly guided the second phase of the planning process. The use of social media

including Facebook, YouTube videos, and a Steering Committee blog, proved to be key tools for increased public engagement.

2010 Individual Awards

Planning Leadership Award (Citizen Planner)
Richard Krapf, James City County

Planning Leadership Award (Local Elected Official)
Supervisor Sally Thomas, Albemarle County
Supervisor Stran Trout, New Kent County

Planning Leadership Award (State Official)
Assistant Secretary Nicholas M. Donohue, Commonwealth of Virginia

In addition to the planning awards, APA Virginia President Jeryl Phillips also recognized the following volunteers for their efforts on behalf of the Chapter.

Distinguished Service – **Elizabeth S. Via-Gossman, AICP**
Distinguished Contribution – **Ryan M. Link, AICP**
Service Awards were presented to outgoing board members
Wendy Block Sanford and Leonard Wolfenstein

2010 Awards Jury – APA Virginia
Bob Kuhns, AICP, Chairman
Earl Anderson, AICP
Elizabeth Friel, AICP
Elaine Echols, AICP
Tracey Shiflett, AICP
Jeff Walker, AICP
Sarah Capps, Student Member



Planners make their way to the d'Art Center.

APA Virginia's Annual Conference Shines in Norfolk

By Claire Jones, AICP, Hampton Roads PDC

In May, more than 350 planners from around the Commonwealth gathered in Norfolk for the APA Virginia Annual Conference. The Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel played host to three days of engaging sessions, networking, and fun on the Elizabeth River with colleagues and friends. Among the activities enjoyed by this year's participants were a Norfolk Tides baseball game, an opening day reception on the river, and a Tuesday night reception at the recently renovated Selden Arcade, home to the thriving artistic community of the d'Art Center.

Sessions offered at this year's conference covered a variety of topics, from form-based codes and complete streets to reaching citizens through new e-tools like LinkedIn and Facebook. Four distinct tracks allowed conference goers to concentrate on one topic or mix and match for better variety. Continued on page 8

ECDC Breaks New Ground

By Joseph Curtis, AICP, Co-Chair ECDC

As Co-Chair of the Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee (ECDC), I had a full plate this conference. I started on Sunday with the distinct honor of picking up keynote speaker Rebecca Ryan from the airport. I had been tracking her flight information all day to ensure I made it to the airport on time. That gave me time to make a poster bearing her face and her name to hold out to people as they walk past the security check point. All VIPs have someone like this, so why shouldn't Rebecca?

Once at the airport, I waited at the security gate with sign in hand. Before I knew it, our guest of honor passed through the security checkpoint and walked straight toward me. She held up two big thumbs up at the sight of my sign. En route to the conference hotel, we had an engaging conversation about Virginia, diversity, and the planning profession.

Before we could reach the conclusion of the conversation, we arrive at the host hotel. However, as many of our attendees know, the entire hotel was dark. This did not look good. As we approached the hotel, I asked what happened. Apparently, the power outage was due to an electrical malfunction. The lack of power trapped some people in elevators and the front desk was unable to check in anyone. This was not the first impression of Norfolk I wanted to give our keynote speaker and I was sweating bullets. Rebecca however was nonchalant about the entire situation. She shrugged it off and said "its one of those random things that happens from time to time." She was actually more concerned about my frustration. After about an hour of chaos and uncertainty, the power finally came on and despite all the insanity, our keynote speaker was able to check in and off she went to her room.

That bizarre evening did not take away from Rebecca Ryan's energy and the next day the ECDC was honored to have Ms. Ryan sit in at our sessions. The first session, entitled *Engaging Enclaves in Your Community* addressed the necessity for dialogue between planners and the citizens they serve. This served as a continuation of the conversation started at the Williamsburg conference last year where the committee focused on public sector perspectives working with communities where English is not the first language. This year, in Norfolk, we heard from the private sector about the benefits of engaging ethnic enclaves in the planning process. Al Guerra, the CEO of Kelvin International Corporation, and a past President of the Hampton Roads Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, discussed his personal experiences with planning departments. Because of his less-than-ideal experience, he discussed ways to improve the rapport.



Above: (L to R) Miguel Salinas, Leon Hughes, Gaea Honeycutt, Al Guerra. Below: (L to R) Joseph Curtis, Rick Henn, Carla Howard, Jay Squires, Shannon Bowman, Nicole Carry. Photo courtesy of the ECDC.



Gaea Honeycutt, who serves as Vice-Chair of the Northern VA Black Chamber of Commerce and President of G.L. Honeycutt Consulting, LLC mentioned the necessity to maintain open communication between government and the African-American community. Ms. Honeycutt talked about reaching out to the community via civic and fraternal organizations taking advantage of established networks to reach a population that may not always be engaged in the public process by traditional means. Rounding out the panel was fellow ECDC member Miguel Salinas, who brought the discussion full circle from last year by providing insight on the challenges faced when a public sector agency made an effort to engage a hard to reach population. Once again, a big "thank you" to our speakers, especially Al Guerra, who was a last-minute replacement after our original panelist, had a conflict.

Our second session, *Being Out... and In Business*, was a real opportunity for Virginia planners to hear and discuss the economic impact the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community, as members of the 'creative class' has in the Commonwealth. And judging from our panel, it's quite a lot. The session started out with a description of the creative class, a term coined by Professor Richard Florida, to describe those who make a significant contribution to workforce development. Our panelists represented LGBT business leaders from around the Commonwealth as well as economic development leaders in localities where these creative class businesses

are making significant contributions to the tax base. Two of our panelists, Nicole Carry and Shannon Bowman, represented Hampton Roads Business Out Reach (HRBOR), the LGBT Chamber of Commerce for Hampton Roads. Nicole is a joint-owner of two Anytime Fitness locations in Hampton Roads and Shannon is the CEO of the Norfolk-based marketing company Motley Media. They mentioned that as the only LGBT Chamber of Commerce in Virginia, their large membership has been able to pull together their resources and act as a support group for fellow business members. Jay Squires, President of the Gay Community Center of Richmond, mentioned how the Center has been able to pull together resources in Richmond, and show the City how the LGBT community in the area can serve as stewards for the greater Richmond area. By hosting bingo for seniors and operating a thrift store, the Community Center has been a resource for many members of the community beyond the LGBT community. And Finally, Rick Henn and Carla Howard discussed how the City of Norfolk interacts with business. The Commonwealth does not recognize the impact of LGBT-owned business and neither the Commonwealth nor the City of Norfolk *explicitly* recruits businesses to Hampton Roads, but both do their best to create an environment that is welcoming to all businesses. Rebecca Ryan appeared impressed with this session and included more slides about Richard Florida and the ‘creative class’ concept in her keynote speech. The ECDC appreciates having Ms. Ryan address the topic of diversity in her keynote speech and we were honored to sponsor her attendance. We hope the Virginia planners in attendance were informed as well as entertained from “the human sparkplug!”

Finally, I would like to give a big welcome to our newest ECDC members Bobby Tajan from the City of Norfolk’s Planning department and Marc Lewis-DeGrace from Loudoun County’s Planning Department. Bobby was a big help during the conference, and had the honor of escorting Ms. Ryan back to the airport after her keynote. Welcome aboard, Bobby and Marc!

Please monitor the listserv for future ECDC events, including our famous Diversity Planner Networking Breakfasts. Contact Joseph Curtis and Leon Hughes at ecdc@apavirginia.org for more information.

Section News You Can Use!

Hampton Roads – Joseph Curtis, AICP -

The Hampton Roads Section is busy putting together a summer schedule that will knock your socks off, so watch out for e-mail blasts from the listserv! We had the pleasure of having Mr. Steven Wright, Director of Economic Development with the City of Chesapeake; speak at our Section Meeting in April. The event, held in the tactic meeting room at the savvy and sophisticated aloft Hotel, was accompanied by a delicious spread of hors d’œuvres. Mr. Wright discussed the initiatives taking place in the City, and went over the history of the City’s most financially lucrative venture, the Greenbrier planned unit development. This area, which includes a mall, commercial uses, and the distribution center and headquarters for Dollar Tree Stores, Inc., has been in existence for over twenty years. Despite several new hotels and development, the area according to Wright, “is starting to show its age.” The area is almost built out with no large-acre land available and therefore, eventually, the Greenbrier area will have to grow *vertically* instead of horizontally. Attendees are able to claim 1.5 certification maintenance credits for the Section Meeting under the name *Economic Development as a Planning Tool in Chesapeake*.

The Hampton Roads Section appreciates Mr. Wright speaking to us, and we would also like to thank Adrienne Powell with the City of Chesapeake and Myra Boykin with aloft Hotel for their assistance. Stay tuned for more section meetings in the Southside and on the Peninsula during the summer months. And if you have a suggestion for a speaker or venue, or would like to assist the Hampton Roads section in any other way, please contact Amy Jordan and Joseph Curtis at hamptonroads@apavirginia.org.

Northern Virginia – Ben Wales, AICP - The Northern Virginia Section followed-up its successful fall sessions with a walking tour of Washington DC’s NoMa Business Improvement District (BID). NoMa is an area north of Capitol Hill and Union Station and takes its name from being North of Massachusetts Avenue. Due to its proximity to Union Station, the 35-block neighborhood had been developed over the last 150 years with industrial and warehouse uses and was ripe for redevelopment.

The BID was created in March 2007, to assist NoMa in becoming a successful mixed-use neighborhood. It is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of nine property and business owners. Through a special assessment collected from property owners, the BID is helping to make NoMa safe, clean, and attractive for businesses, residents, and visitors.

Continued on back page

Annual Conference (continued)

This year's theme – New Directions in Planning: Reflecting, Responding, and Redesigning Our Communities – came vividly to life as many took advantage of walking and driving tours showcasing local communities reinventing themselves in a difficult economic climate. Conference participants also enjoyed extended breaks between sessions, allowing for more time to connect with friends and colleagues from across the state.

On the opening day of the conference, keynote speaker Rebecca Ryan provided an energetic call to action for Virginia planners hoping to attract the next generation of leaders to their cities, towns, and counties. She spoke of many of the qualities that young people look for when deciding where they will live and work, issues beyond the traditional jobs, housing, and transportation concerns that planners consider on a daily basis. The next generation will seek the benefits of vibrant mixed use communities that won't require long commutes to reach employment, entertainment, or shopping, and the planning profession is at the forefront of the movement to provide these places.



On Tuesday, the annual awards ceremony honored the work of the best and the brightest in the field and in the classroom. For the first time, many of the winners were also given time to showcase the projects being honored. The conference wrapped up on Wednesday with great reviews for both the chapter and the host city. After spending time learning new things and meeting new people, Virginia's planners left the conference with improved knowledge of their field and expanded networks to draw on in future endeavors. We look forward to seeing you all at next year's conference.



Left: Rebecca Ryan engages a young planner. Right: Newly inducted AICP Fellow Al Riutort with Board Member Earl Anderson.

Students Shine at Annual Conference

By Susan McCulloch, City Planner, Martinsville, Virginia

One of the most enjoyable traditions at APA Virginia is when each of the Commonwealth's accredited universities is asked to submit their choices for the annual Outstanding Student Awards. The chapter always enjoys honoring the student planners and they are invited to attend the annual conference each year. And this year, the 2009-2010 Virginia planning schools outstanding students certainly stand out!



The Graduate Outstanding Student was **Christopher Chop**. Chop, 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 Tech with a focus on housing and physical land use. He plans to write his major paper on airport-driven urban

development. In addition to his excellent academic work, Chop 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.

The University's Undergraduate Outstanding Student was **Rachel Stair**. Stair, from Oakton, Virginia, excelled in two other majors (Architecture and Wildlife Science) before she found her passion in environmental policy and planning. Stair 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, Stair 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.

The University's National Capital Region Graduate Outstanding Student was **William T. Cook**. Cook 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 his planning and communication skills. With a 3.96 GPA, he has embraced all aspects of the planning field. Cook 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.

When asked what the award meant to him, Cook said that the award meant “Confirmation.” He added, “I am a ‘career changer,’ so the recognition is confirmation to me that I made the right decision by entering the field of planning. I'm grateful to the faculty for selecting me, and I'm excited to enter professional life with a great group of fellow classmates who always challenge and inspire.”



VCU chose **Christopher E. Michael** as their 2010 Outstanding Graduate Student. In the nomination, the faculty noted that Michael was on track to graduate in May 2010 with an outstanding 3.83 GPA. Michael has been superb in teamwork situations, practicing the gentle, yet

persuasive leadership that marks all good planners. But the nomination stressed his work outside the classroom as what really sets him apart from the other students. 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, Michael is not only an outstanding student, but has all the makings of an outstanding planner, and they write that they are very proud of him.

The University's Undergraduate Outstanding Student was **Emily E. Ruf**. Ruf 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. Ruf 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 Ruf was accepted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars due to her scholarly achievements.

“In a word, my APA award means honor. It is an honor to be recognized for my hard work and dedication by those I respect most: my professors, advisors, and professional planners. To stand out amongst the many excellent planning students in Virginia is also a tremendous honor,” said Ruf.



The Graduate Outstanding Student was **Dana M. Smith**. Smith was nominated for her 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 the student-run food garden on the grounds of the University.

Smith said that she feels “honored” to receive the award, adding, “I feel honored to have had so many opportunities to grow and learn over the past two years at the University of Virginia and to be recognized for my achievements by the APA Virginia chapter. I am so thankful for the supportive and encouraging faculty and staff who helped me to flourish and for the pleasure of working with some of the most intelligent, thoughtful, and humorous students I've ever met.”

The University's Undergraduate Outstanding Student was **Anne Catherine Pfuntner**. Pfuntner demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and consistent high quality professional work. She has also pursued a minor in Historic Preservation. Pfuntner has been actively engaged in student initiatives toward developing sustainability at the University including research to create a “Share a Bike” program on the campus.

Pfuntner said to receive the award was “humbling,” adding, “It is incredibly humbling to be selected by my professors from students in such a strong planning program as UVA's. This award reinforces for me that planning efforts are not accomplished alone, but with the collaboration of others, something I have learned from the work with my peers.”

APA Virginia — Planner News and Moves

UVA Professor **Bill Lucy** has a new book out! [Foreclosing the Dream: How America's Housing Crisis Is Changing Our Cities and Suburbs \(APA, 2010\)](#) is the latest book by Lucy, the Lawrence Lewis Jr. Professor of Urban and Environmental Planning at UVA's School of Architecture. In the book, Lucy goes beyond previous explanations of the housing crisis and discusses the roles of several other factors he finds were critical in its evolution, including: “National housing policies, presidential politics, household demographic changes, altered residential location preferences, inter-local development competition, and the exaggerated shape of the American Dream for large single family houses in suburbs.”

Continued on next page



Member News (continued)

Lucy argues that ultimately the wave of largely suburban foreclosures in 2008 and 2009 will be a good thing for the U.S. as the downturn spurs more compact

development in urban areas and reduces the population in the suburbs, which will in turn spark a decline in nation's dependence on automobiles and thus contribute positively toward reversing global warming.

Newsbrief also has the latest round of administrative rotations at UVA. **Bruce Dotson** has returned to being the Department Chair, **Daphne Spain** has finished up a year of research leave and will return to full time teaching in the fall. And **Bill Lucy** will be completing his term as Associate Dean and will also be returning to full time teaching this fall.

Another UVA professor, **Tim Beatley** was honored in a Rotunda ceremony on May 28th with the University Teaching Award for his teaching sustainability to both undergraduate and graduate students.

In 2011 the University's **Institute for Environmental Negotiation** will celebrate 30 years, originally established by Rich Collins in 1981 while this year marks the 10th anniversary of IEN's Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute (VNRLI) which now has over 200 alumni leaders from state and local government, industry and community residents.

Elsewhere, **Eric Lawrence, AICP**, Director of Planning and Development for Frederick County, reported that his board of supervisors has adopted a transfer of development rights (TDR). The first of its kind in the Commonwealth. Eric, a former high ranking member of the Chapter's social committee, will be speaking at CPEAV's upcoming annual Planning and Zoning Law Seminar on July 23rd about the new ordinance. More information is available on CPEAV's website at www.cpeav.org.

In one of the few job moves during this economic downturn, NoVa Section co-chair **Annie Eberhart Goode** has left Reed Smith in Loudoun County to join the federal government. She is now an environmental protection specialist for rural development with the US Department of Agriculture.

Elizabeth R. Friel, AICP, continues to be one of the busiest women in the state with her recent acceptance into Leadership Historic Triangle, Class of 2011. This program seeks to encourage, develop and support community leaders and is one of several such programs around the state successfully engaging local communities.

Emerging Rural Communities Focus of Fall Symposium

September 23 and 24, 2010

APA Virginia's 2010 Fall Symposium will be held in Luray, Virginia with a focus on the prospects for growth and development in emerging rural communities. The two day symposium will kick off with an entire day with legendary planner, Randall Arendt on conservation design and commercial corridors. The second day, September 24th, will be a half day and feature 2 concurrent tracks and a mobile workshop.

The Fall Symposium will be held at the Mimslyn Inn which recently underwent an \$8 million renovation and is a spectacular facility. Registration for this event will be limited. A complimentary tour of Luray Caverns will be available on the first night of the symposium.



Watch for more information or contact:

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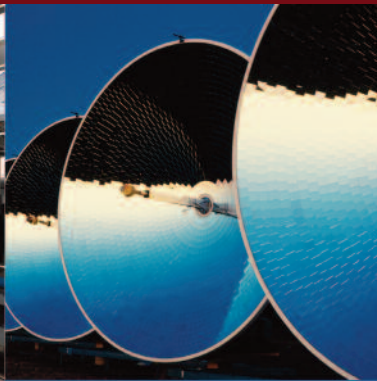
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ADVANCED SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION (ASC) PROGRAM

Just as physicians need to demonstrate their expertise and knowledge within specialized fields of medicine, so too do planners in specialized fields of planning. This is what the ASC program does – provides the opportunity for AICP-certified planners to demonstrate expertise and leadership in their specialization, while grounded in the profession's comprehensive perspective and point of view. The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) provide an overview of the ASC program.

Find more information at www.planning.org/asc.



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Section News (continued)

As a measure of its success, the neighborhood has received \$3 billion in private investment, has 14.5 million square feet of existing and newly constructed space and over 1,500 new residential units. A further 17.5 million square feet of mixed-use development is planned, including the 3,000,000 square foot Burnham Place (no prizes for knowing where the name came from). This innovative and ambitious development is to be built above Union Station's existing rail yard. As the great man said himself, "Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood..."

Look out for upcoming Section events in late summer and fall!

To receive email notifications of upcoming Section events, please contact Hillary Zahm or Annie Goode at vapanova@gmail.com.

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