The Tradition of Excellence Continues…..
DURP Students Win AICP and APA FL Project Awards

Following last year’s wins for APA Florida’s Outstanding Student Project Award and the Florida Planning and Zoning Association’s Innovation Award, *Envisioning Florida’s Future: Transportation and Land Use in an Automated Vehicle World* received the 2017 AICP Student Project Award for Contribution of Planning to Contemporary Issues from the American Planning Association. The award was presented at the National APA Conference in New York in May 2017. The development and application of best planning practices was central to this cutting-edge project, which was directed by Lindsay Stevens. The student team designed an original and innovative visioning session that engaged participants in a fun “immersion experience” aimed at enabling participants to imagine themselves traveling through an AV world to uncover how the built environment could be transformed to better accommodate the needs of future travelers. In addition to the students’ outstanding application of best practices in public participation techniques, the project represents a high level of quality and professionalism in the materials designed to facilitate the visioning session. The student team utilized the latest in GIS and publishing software to develop original aerial maps complete with designated routes for participant “travelers,” prompt cards to guide the discussion, and session brochures to reinforce rules and assumptions bounding the conversation. The report was prepared for the Florida Department of Transportation.

Also this year, APA Florida presented the Outstanding Student Project Award to DURP students for the *St. Johns County Passive Park and Recreation Master Plan Enhancement* at the September 2017 conference held in Daytona. Presented each year to recognize an exemplary project completed by graduate planning students at an accredited planning program in Florida, this is the fifth such award received by FSU DURP students in the past six years. This project was also directed by Lindsay Stevens with support from Senior Planner Jeremy Crute.
Message from the Chair

In this issue of DURP Update, we recognize the achievements of a very productive 2017. Our students continued the department’s 50-plus year Tradition of Excellence this past year. DURP students were once again recognized for their outstanding contributions to planning practice with awards for our applied student studio projects from the American Planning Association (National APA) for Envisioning Florida’s Future: Transportation and Land Use in an Automated Vehicle World and APA Florida for the St. Johns County Passive Park and Recreation Master Plan Enhancement.

Students continued the department’s tradition of service to the profession in their roles as student representatives to the state chapter of APA Florida and national APA. Students also received recognition of their academic accomplishments through the receipt of fellowships or awards from the Florida Planning and Zoning Association and the McKnight Foundation.

DURP welcomed two new members to the DURP Faculty this fall. Dennis Smith (MSP 1994) joined the Department as our new Planner in Residence with responsibility for the Florida Planning and Development Lab’s student project and applied research activities. Dr. Julie Lawless joined us as a visiting professor teaching courses in our core curriculum, land use, and neighborhood planning and community design specializations. DURP has also prepared to hire two new full-time faculty to strengthen our nationally regarded land use and comprehensive planning specialization and increase our offerings in the area of land use and real estate development; these new faculty will join the department in August 2018.

DURP’s faculty continue to engage in path-breaking research and to be recognized for their research and service activities. Faculty produced work on climate change, planning and health, gender, aging populations, and many other important subjects. On the service front, Professor Petra Doan was elected President of the Faculty Women’s Interest Group of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning.

Finally, we received news this fall of a Seven-Year Reaccreditation (by the Planning Accreditation Board) of our Master of Science in Planning program, the longest duration possible. PAB commended DURP for its "exemplary," "well rounded," and "strong and rich program." Thanks to alumni, students, staff, faculty, and friends who participated in surveys, meetings, interviews, and various fora throughout the reaccreditation process. And thanks to everyone for such an outstanding 2017.

This issue of DURP Update highlights these numerous accomplishments and events of the DURP family during the past year. It’s been a great 2017 as we carry on DURP’s Tradition of Excellence and look ahead to 2018.

Update on Course Partnership with Real Estate

During the Spring 2017 semester, DURP partnered with the Real Estate Center within the FSU College of Business to launch a new interdisciplinary course entitled Urban Planning and Real Estate Development. Enrollment in the course is limited to graduate and upper-level undergraduate students enrolled in FSU’s Urban and Regional Planning and Real Estate programs. The course provides students with an understanding of the complexities of the development process from both public and private sector perspectives, and includes material on site selection, due diligence, permitting, market and financial analysis, and project design. Highly interactive class sessions include professional guest speakers from the planning, design, real estate, legal, and finance sectors. The course culminates in a student project competition in which planning and real estate students work on interdisciplinary teams to develop a redevelopment proposal and present it to a panel of judges – similar to an RFP response in the professional world. In the end, the winning team of the project competition is eligible for a cash prize, in addition to gaining applied, real-world experience and professional contacts.

The Urban Planning and Real Estate Development course is made possible by a generous gift from North American Properties – Southeast Inc. This gift supports the continued development, offering, and evaluation of the course over the next five years. Dr. Dean Gatzlaff, the Mark C. Bane Professor and director of the Real Estate Center, and Lindsay Stevens, J.D. AICP, former DURP Planner in Residence and current adjunct professor and Land Program Manager for The Nature Conservancy, co-teach the course.
Faculty News

Petra Doan was invited to present her research at the semi-annual UMass Boston Planning Lecture in September. Her talk was titled: *Planning as a Tool to Create and Preserve LGBTQ Inclusive Urban Spaces: Lessons from Atlanta and Tampa.*

Dr. Doan was also elected to a two-year term as president of the Faculty Women’s Interest Group (FWIG) for the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP).

Welcome New Faculty: Julie Lawless and Dennis Smith

**Julie Lawless**, Ph.D., received a Master of City and Regional Planning degree from Clemson University and a Ph.D. in architecture from the University of Kansas.

Her design research focuses on the use of value systems at the intersection of users and the built environment. Drawing on a career in historic preservation planning, her research program involves using value-based design in live/work environments and the impacts of value systems in heritage conservation.

She has published work in the *Journal of Heritage Management; Journal of the International Society of Vernacular Settlements,* and the *Journal of Space and Communication.* Dr. Lawless’s current research seeks to prove a connection between human well-being and heritage conservation practice. She has joined DURP as a visiting professor for the 2017-2018 academic year.

**Dennis J. Smith**, Growth Management Coordinator for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), was named DURP’s new Planner-in-Residence in July 2017. Prior to joining FDOT, he spent 12 years in the private sector managing disaster recovery and emergency planning projects nationwide. Before that, he was the disaster recovery program administrator for the Florida Department of Emergency Management.

Much of Smith’s work has focused on risks to the built environment, including projects for resiliency, transportation modeling, evacuation planning for high risk areas and vulnerability assessment. He has extensive experience managing state and federal programs and a thorough knowledge of laws relating to land use, transportation and disaster recovery.

Smith is a 1994 DURP graduate and came to his studies in planning at FSU after a stint in the Peace Corps as a community development volunteer in Liberia. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners.
Student Awards & Events

Box City

This summer, the Smith-Williams Service Center hosted a team of DURP students and faculty for a summer camp edition of Box City. Jeremy Crute, Kayla Davis, Dr. Tisha Holmes, Sarah Kelty, Shaleen Miller, and Sarah Vitale worked with elementary and middle school students during two day camp events. These events introduced basic principles of community growth and development through a series of fun, interactive activities, with the overall goal of inspiring the next generation of planners! For more information about Box City or to get involved in the Spring 2018 Box City, contact Kierra Zuokemefa (kmz16@my.fsu.edu), Ashley Johnson (arj17b@my.fsu.edu), or Sarah Kelty (sjk15d@my.fsu.edu).

DURP Students Receive Outside Awards

Joel Mendez received a McKnight dissertation fellowship to support his dissertation research on “The Effect of Transit on Opportunities for Low Income Inner City Residents.” Awards are made to individuals who have demonstrated superior academic achievement, are committed to careers in teaching and research at the college level, and demonstrate strong commitment to community service.

Sarah Kelty was a recipient of the Florida Planning and Zoning Association’s Outstanding Student Awards. This is a competitive merit-based award open to all students currently enrolled in a Florida college/university urban planning undergraduate, graduate, or certificate program.

MSP Student is APA Florida’s Student Representative

Daniel Hubbard has been selected to serve a two-year term representing students at all accredited planning programs in Florida on the APA Florida Executive Committee.

Lunch and Learn Session

Synoptikos hosted a Lunch and Learn session on "Promoting Health Through the Planning Process."
Faculty and Student Research and Publications

Ph.D. Student Research

Joel Mendez (with Professor Brown) was awarded a grant by the Mineta Transportation Institute to support a study "Examining the Development Effects of Modern-Era Streetcars: An Assessment of Two US Cities." They hope to inform more effective planning and policy decisions in cities contemplating streetcar investment by isolating, quantifying, and providing greater understanding of the economic development impact of streetcars.

James Wood (with MSP graduate Melanie Marques and Professor Brown) studied "Older Adults' Preferences and Perceptions of Transit: A Case Study of Tallahassee, Florida." He presented the results of this work at ACSP in Denver October 2017 and will be doing the same at TRB this January 2018.

Shaleen Miller is examining local park access and quality. She has three undergraduate research assistants helping her to visit and evaluate local parks, which she is adding to GIS for analysis. She hopes to follow up on this analysis with a qualitative element.

DURP Faculty have also published a number of articles and other works this year. In the spotlight, we highlight the work of Professor Petra Doan. This year, Professor Doan has published two journal articles:


And two book chapters:


Tisha Holmes is working with Will Butler to understand the potential of regional organizations to help local municipalities overcome constraints and barriers to adapt to sea level rise in Southwest Florida. She is also supporting the Florida Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (FLBRACE) program to assist county public health departments evaluate their efforts to prepare for climate related events and impacts.

Chris Coutts was involved with an international group of scholars in the launch of a new journal, Cities & Health. This editorial was designed to outline the mission of the journal and how we view the intersection of planning and public health:


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Faculty and Student Research Continued

**Rebecca Miles in India**

Rebecca Miles spent 7 months in Kerala, India, last year carrying out research on planning and aging populations supported by a core Fulbright Scholar Award. She focused her research on a unique community-local government partnership that involves the local government and a well-known, amazingly effective community women’s network, Kudumbashree.

This community-local government partnership is piloting a program directed towards the inclusion of older women and men in all aspects of community life through the formation of Elderly Neighborhood Groups. In February and March 2017, Professor Miles carried out in-depth interviews with managers and residents. She presented her preliminary results in a well-received seminar held at her host institution, the Center for Development Studies (CDS) in Thiruvananthapuram, in April 2017.

As a result of the seminar and several meetings, the Director of the Research Unit on Local Self Governments (RULSG) at CDS invited her to submit her paper entitled “A unique partnership between community and local government in Kerala responds to population aging” for inclusion in their Working Paper Series. The paper will be translated into the local language, Malayalam, for wide circulation within Kudumbashree and beyond.

**DURPies tour Tall Timbers and Conduct a Prescribed Fire**

DURP faculty, students and alumni toured Tall Timbers Research Station and Land Conservancy on November 17, 2017. This was the 6th annual tour organized for the department by Professor William Butler with DURP alumnus Neil Fleckenstein, the planner at the conservancy. Environmental planning and growth management classes are the first invitees, then the tour is opened to the department.

The tour begins in the education and outreach center where Fleckenstein reviews the history of the old quail hunting plantations in the Red Hills and then describes the work of the land trust in land conservation. Like most of the nation's Land Trust, Tall Timbers use his conservation easements as the primary tool for land conservation. However, Tall Timbers also uses advocacy for growth management and smart growth in Thomasville and Tallahassee which border the Red Hills on the north and south.

After the presentation, the 20 or so attendees loaded onto a wagon for a ride out into the piney savannahs of the Tall Timbers research station. We heard from a wildlife biologist about quail and got to pet a couple of outreach birds. We also heard from the land manager about the importance of prescribed fire on the landscape. The highlight was certainly participating in conducting a prescribed fire on a small plot near the Jones tenant house, a restored historic structure indicative of the farming history of the Red Hills.

We are appreciative of this DURP connection to one of the most successful models of land conservation in the country. One of the students remarked, "I learned about a whole new side of planning today!"
Spotlight on Alumni

Congratulations to the DURP alums involved in the Comprehensive Plans that were recognized by the American Planning Association at the National Conference. An excerpt from a press release is below:

Fernandina Beach, Florida, has received Bronze Level recognition from the American Planning Association’s (APA) Comprehensive Plan Standards for Sustaining Places Recognition Program Pilot for its Fernandina Beach 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

APA’s pilot program recognizes plans that advance the principles, processes and attributes of sustainability as detailed in the Comprehensive Plan Standards. The program aims to increase awareness about the importance and value of a comprehensive plan that also addresses a community’s overall sustainability. A team of professional planners scored plans based upon the principles of a livable built environment; harmony with nature; resilient economy; interwoven equity; healthy community; and responsible regionalism. The reviewers also looked at the community engagement and implementation efforts, and the attributes that shape the content and characteristics of a comprehensive plan.

The Fernandina Beach Comprehensive Plan focuses on creating distinctive and appealing communities with compact development and multi-modal transportation. The plan also emphasizes environmental sustainability with particular focus on land use, energy and the natural environment while addressing issues related to resiliency and hazards. Policies call for denser development and improved infrastructure for more accessible transportation which will help reduce pollution and waste. Development plans call for the construction of green-certified buildings and better access to natural resources. Fernandina Beach is one of five comprehensive plans that received either gold, silver or bronze recognition. Other winners include:

Gold Level:
- Imagine 2040: Temple Terrace Comprehensive Plan - Temple Terrace, Florida

Silver Level:
- Imagine 2040: Plant City Comprehensive Plan - Plant City, Florida

Bronze Level:
- PlaNorfolk 2030 - Norfolk, Virginia
- Plan 2035 Prince George’s Approved General Plan - Prince George’s County, Maryland

The Comprehensive Plan Standards for Sustaining Places Recognition Program Pilot is a result of APA’s Sustaining Places Initiative that examined how places can be sustained and how places can sustain life and civilizations. Planning’s comprehensive focus is not limited to a building or a site, but encompasses all scales and all forms of organization of human settlements, from rural areas and small towns to cities and metropolitan regions. The program is operated through APA’s National Centers for Planning.

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DURP’s Vision and Mission Statements

Vision Statement
The Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Florida State University strives to train professionals who are change agents in their communities; create research that transforms practice and scholarship; and promote sustainability, social justice, and the well-being of all persons.

Mission Statement
The Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Florida State University enrolls a diverse set of students and educates them to think critically, exhibit technical competence, and effectively engage the political process. The department conducts research and provides service that contributes to a better understanding and shaping of resilient communities and ecosystems in order to promote human capabilities, equity, sustainable livelihoods, and healthy and safe places locally and globally. The department recognizes a particular responsibility to document, examine, and enhance planning in the State of Florida.

Stay in Touch with DURP

DURP Department Website: http://www.coss.fsu.edu/durp/

DURP Department Listserv: To post announcements, internship, or job opportunities, please send an e-mail to: durp@coss.fsu.edu

Join DURP Alumni Listserv at: https://lists.fsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/durpalumni

DURP Alumni Facebook Page
Go to Facebook and join the “FSU DURP Alumni” group.

Giving Back to DURP

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning wishes to thank the many firms, families, and individuals that gave to Florida State University last year to help support DURP’s students, programs and activities. These gifts have been put to excellent use in supporting graduate students, bringing in outside speakers to classes and events, and allowing the department to put on events such as the DURP Tailgate and Convocation.

Thanks to the generous support of our donors these gifts go a long way towards helping the department maintain its excellence in a trying fiscal climate. Remember that there are many ways to give and that no gift is too small.

If you are interested in giving to DURP, please contact Department Chair Jeff Brown (jrbrown3@fsu.edu) or College of Social Sciences and Public Policy Assistant Dean for Development Cindy Michelson (cmichelson@foundation.fsu.edu).