

A newsletter for alumni and friends of the DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING
University of Wisconsin-Madison

FROM THE CHAIR

James A. LaGro, Jr.



Greetings! I'm pleased to have the privilege of writing this column. Steve Born's capable leadership as the department Chair concluded at the end of June. Since then I've been learning on the job...and relying on our former Chairs for advice and counsel. For those of you who don't know me, I'm one of four faculty members who transferred in 1998 from the Department of Landscape Architecture. After earning my Master's of Landscape Architecture in 1982 from Cornell University, I worked in private practice with firms in Switzerland, South Florida, and upstate New York. My land planning experiences in Florida stimulated my interest in research on land use policy and the environment. Consequently, I returned to Cornell and earned my Ph.D. in natural resources policy (with a minor in city and regional planning). I've been on the UW-Madison faculty since 1990.

We became a bi-college department as a result of the faculty transfers in 1998. This merger has had significant benefits for the department. But it has forced us to think about expanding - upgrading - our facilities. Old Music Hall provides cozy, but cramped, quarters. As long as we're here, though, we're working to improve what we have. Last summer, for example, Brian Stone set up our new computer lab. He and doctoral student Brian Wiley sifted and winnowed our library collections to make room for a network server, nine computer workstations, a large-format scanner, and a laser printer. Most of our international plans and reports were moved to Memorial Library. Many of the domestic plans and reports now share space with our audio-visual equipment - and a small conference space - on Music Hall's second floor.

In the last few years we've added four new faculty members. Unfortunately, our efforts to recruit three additional faculty members ended last year in failed searches. Although we made offers to excellent and nationally prominent candidates, each of them eventually declined, in part due to the careers of their spouses, and other family-related concerns. Unfortunately, given the State's current budget difficulties, our plans to renew these faculty searches are currently on hold. I'm also sorry to report that Barb Klein, our office administrator, has resigned due to

her husband's recent job transfer. We wish Barb and her family well in their new hometown of Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Our Ph.D. program was reviewed by a bi-college committee last spring. The program received a laudatory review...and a few thoughtful suggestions for improvement. Following a series of special meetings on the doctoral program, the faculty has agreed to implement - in concept - several program revisions. This process will take several more months to work out the details. By next spring, however, we should have revised program policies on course requirements, preliminary exams, and procedures for guiding our doctoral students throughout their programs of study.

We are also taking steps to improve our Master's program. Faculty discussions have recently focused, for example, on giving more structure and clarity to our concentrations. In addition to these - and other - potential curriculum changes, we intend to do a better job of "marketing" the different concentrations. We are currently working with a graphic design office on campus to publish professionally the first in a set of high-quality brochures on our concentrations in the Master's program.

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URPL ALUMNI ADVISORY COUNCIL - June 11, 2002

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URPL ALUMNI COUNCIL

My fellow Badger Planners.....

I hope all of you had a chance to read the Summer 2002 edition of Connections, which was dedicated to our new Alumni Advisory Council...if you missed it and/or would like copies please call Rose at the Department.

We will be starting work on several AAC initiatives including a curriculum review, follow-up meetings with the UW Alumni Association and Foundation, a conceptual discussion about URPL's fund raising activities, and an initial outreach to affiliated departments/programs regarding the

potential for a shared facility.

Speaking of fund raising, you have probably received a call from a UW student helping the Foundation with its annual fund drive. Remember that you can specify that your donations go directly to URPL, which will really help supplement and stretch the department's budget.

In 2003, the faculty and AAC will provide you with a briefing on the budget and what we might do to increase alumni and outside funding opportunities. In the meantime, if you have any questions about current URPL needs give Jim LaGro, our new chairman, a call.

John LaMotte (M.S., 1980)

WISCONSIN URPL GRADS AROUND THE WORLD



A New Area of Concentration in the M.S. Curriculum: International Development Planning

Reading the newspaper, watching television, it is apparent that the world is becoming smaller and increasingly interdependent. Planners have understood these changes as space-time compression for some time. However, global events since September 11th have highlighted the urgency of global poverty reduction, critical thinking about modernization, social and economic development and improved cross-cultural communication and understanding. Out of the tragedy, a renewed interest in international planning education has emerged and URPL has responded with a new area of concentration in International Development Planning (IDP).

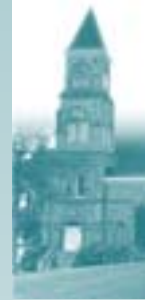
In the spring of 2002, a seminar in International Development Planning Education was offered in URPL. The purpose of the seminar was to explore the possibility of adding a new international area of concentration to the M.S. curriculum. Toward this end, students in the seminar surveyed existing international opportunities available on the UW campus, other accredited planning programs with international concentrations, and the literature on international planning education. Under the guidance of Professor Victoria Beard, the students developed a proposal for a new International Development Planning area of concentration that sought to build on the numerous and impressive area studies programs and international opportunities already available on campus. Significantly, however, the proposal was innovative because it developed a set of requirements based on the pedagogical and ideological view that students who want to work internationally should identify a region and develop area specific knowledge.

In May 2002, the faculty approved the new area of concentration for the M.S. Program and the first class of students started in the September 2002. The main purpose of the concentration is to prepare students to work as planning practitioners in developing countries. Building on rigorous requirements of the M.S. Program, it provides students with five key educational experiences:

1. A foundation in international development planning theory
2. Expertise in a substantive area of planning practice
3. Exposure to either two social science methods courses or two foreign language courses
4. Knowledge of a geographic region
5. An internship related to international development planning.

The foundation course in International Development Planning Theory provides students with a historical and theoretical framework for critical thinking about international development planning. Students then take two courses in a substantive area of planning practice relevant to working in a developing country. These two courses may be drawn from an existing area of concentration in URPL (environmental planning, community development, economic planning, or land use planning) or may comprise a new area not currently offered as a concentration (e.g. gender and development, infrastructure planning, health planning, or poverty alleviation). Depending on where students would like to work, they also select a geographic region and take two context courses to learn about the history, politics, geography, society and culture in that region. Students either select two methods courses to complement their substantive area of planning practice or take two consecutive language courses to complement their regional focus. Finally, students complete an internship consistent with their substantive area of planning practice and regional focus.

We hope the new area of concentration will attract increasing numbers of international students as well as U.S. student to URPL. The program aims to place its alumni in the large international development agencies (e.g. USAID, the World Bank, the International Labour Organization, and the regional development Banks), nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector. Toward this end, URPL is aggressively trying to help student obtain relevant professional internships.



CONNECTIONS STAFF:

Pat Cantrell
Rose Lapiz
Branden Born
Kathleen Lane
Rick Chenoweth,
faculty advisor

Please send submissions of material for possible inclusion in future issues of Connections to 110 Music Hall, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Madison, WI 53706 or to rclapiz @ facstaff.wisc.edu

A CALL FOR E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Help us keep in touch with you, our greatest resource – URPL alumni! We'll be using email more often to update you on happenings at URPL. Make sure we have your email address, and as always, your current postal address.

URPL COMPUTER LAB

Thanks to the efforts of Assistant Professor Brian Stone, the Department now has a fully functional teaching and research computer laboratory. It provides graduate student access to a wide range of software, including GIS, as well as access to the internet and email. Located in the old URPL

library, the lab contains twelve powerful workstations, laser printer, scanner and overhead LCD projector. From the day it opened this fall, it has been a major resource for our graduate students. Keeping the laboratory up to date and running efficiently will be a major challenge for the Department, particularly in this time of diminishing resources.



WATERS OF WISCONSIN FORUM

In October, 600 Wisconsinites gathered at the Frank Lloyd Wright Civic Center for a Forum on the "Waters of Wisconsin". The gathering of leading water experts, educators, conservationists, businesses, and concerned citizens was laying the groundwork for a comprehensive long-term policy for sustaining Wisconsin's water resources and aquatic ecosystems. The conference was the culmination of two years of work. The effort has been sponsored by the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters. Professor Steve Born has co-chaired the Steering Committee, which has led the effort and developed a draft report, conducted meetings on water issues throughout the state, and engaged a broad cross-section of Wisconsinites in a dialog about the future use, management and protection of water and related resources. The work has focused on developing a comprehensive status and trends report card (including an assessment of future monitoring and information needs); strategies for dealing with uncertainty and incorporating

future impacts into decision-making; development of sustainability principles to guide decisions of governments, businesses, organizations and individuals; and a framework for undertaking a State Water Policy Review process to modernize and address emerging issues pertaining to state water policies. As a result of the array of activities to date, 2003 has been declared the Year of Water in Wisconsin, which will trigger a wide variety of educational, monitoring, cleanup and civic engagement projects and activities around the state.

A number of URPL-connected folks are involved in the conference, including Ken Genskow (Ph.D 2001) and Prof. Rick Chenoweth. Profs. Dave Marcouiller and Steve Born are writing papers for a special water volume of the Academy's Transactions, which is one of the many follow-up activities to the Conference. The Waters of Wisconsin project will be deemed successful if Wisconsinites in the year 2075 recognize that decisions made in the early part of the century laid the foundation for a sustainable Wisconsin — now that's long term planning and evaluation!

NEWS IN A NUTSHELL . . .

Harold “Bud” Jordahl Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

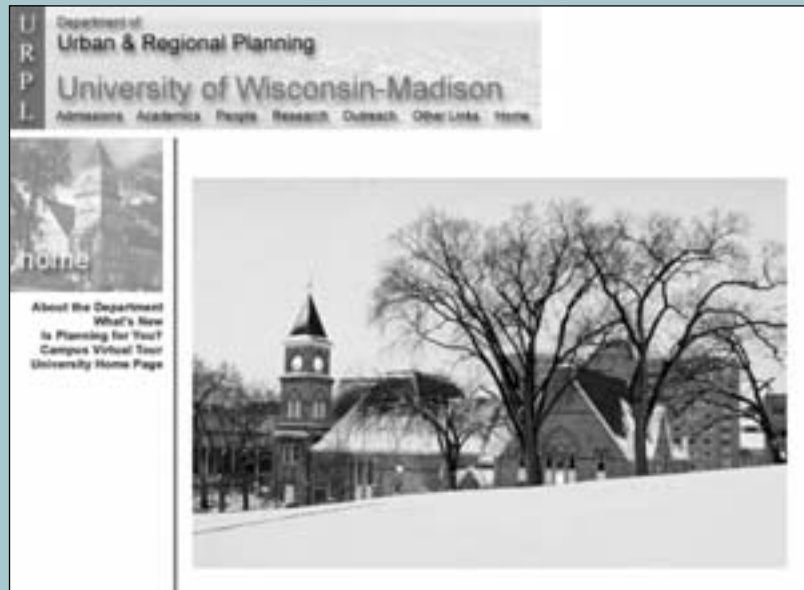
Since 1988, the Natural Heritage Land Trust has honored local conservation heroes in the Dane County area: individuals, non-profit organizations, government bodies and businesses, who, through their commitment to conservation help make our community a better place to live. Each year, a Lifetime Achievement Award in conservation is given to a member of the community who is a true steward of the land – one who lives the spirit of Aldo Leopold’s land ethic. URPL’s own Bud Jordahl received this year’s award at the Stewardship Awards Ceremony. Those who know Bud are keenly aware of how deserving he is of this honor. Congratulations, Bud!

URPL Goes To China

Professor Marcus Lane spent an exciting three weeks in northwest Yunnan in August with colleagues from across the UW–Madison campus. The visit, organized under the aegis of the University’s ‘Asian Partnership Initiative’ and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences’ developing relationship with the Chinese Academy of Science, was concerned with developing a collaborative research program on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development for this remote, underdeveloped part of China. The collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Sciences is both promising and long-range in its focus. The Academy has already committed US\$1 million to support and develop its collaboration with UW faculty.

Northwest Yunnan sits on the southern flanks of the Himalaya, is cleaved by the three great rivers of southeast Asia, is one of the world’s biodiversity hotspots, and is home to twenty-three distinct indigenous groups. Lane’s visit was spent in the company of leading Chinese biophysical scientists and was concerned with thinking through the range of impediments and opportunities associated with achieving sustainable development for the area. In October, Lane in conjunction with three colleagues from across campus submitted a National Science Foundation grant application which will provide support for an ambitious program of research and graduate student training concerned with sustainable development and environmental governance in this fascinating part of the world.

VISIT US AT OUR NEW WEBSITE: www.wisc.edu/urpl.



David Marcouiller’s Canadian Sabbatical

David Marcouiller recently returned from a year-long sabbatical leave with the University of British Columbia, Food and Resource Economics faculty in Vancouver. In addition to some skiing, Dave completed several chapters of a forthcoming book, taught land economics and rural development, and explored this vast coastal Canadian province with his family.

Brian Ohm Presentation in Alpbach, Austria

Associate Professor Brian Ohm presented a paper on the public regulation of traditional neighborhood developments at the 34th International Making Cities Livable Conference in Alpbach, Austria, in September. Professor Ohm is also the co-principal investigator on a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education that involves a transatlantic consortium on urban ecology with six universities from the Netherlands, Germany, Spain and the United States. URPL Ph.D. candidate Martin Bailkey, and lecturer in the Department of Landscape Architecture is also involved in the project.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

We invite you to visit the URPL website at www.wisc.edu/urpl. Now more than ever, the site provides the most complete up to date information about:

- ▶ Happenings at URPL—*New positions available*
Projects, publications and research
Academic programs and courses
faculty
students
- ▶ Alumni news

URPL EMERITUS SPOTLIGHTS

Dick Stauber

Immediately after I retired from URPL I worked for several years as a consultant/writer for the UWEX Local Government Center, but otherwise the only even quasi-professional activity I've been involved in has been a seven-year stint on the City of Madison Board of Assessment Review. However, I still spend a lot of time on campus and have become something of a senior "gym rat" going to the Natatorium every morning I'm in town to work out on the exercise and weight machines. Then I usually hop on a campus bus to my senior citizen classes with a continuing education PLATO (participatory learning and teaching organization) group and to audit a credit class—one of my interests is jazz, so I'm in the PLATO Jazz discussion class and am currently enrolled in Mike Lekrone's credit class on the era of the Big Bands. I'm also a long-time member of the Madison Jazz Society and currently serve on its board of directors. Another major concern of mine is the protection and nurturing of young children. I've been a reading tutor at Midvale Elementary School, but more importantly as a member and part of the board of directors of Madison West Kiwanis have helped provide monetary and other support for programs for kids, which is the main function of Kiwanis. My interest in nature continues as a long-time volunteer in prairie restoration with the Dane County Parks Department: I especially enjoy being one of the "torches" to help burn the prairies, but also work collecting and planting seeds—this is nearly a year-round program. We get out of Madison fairly regularly: the usual annual routine includes summer visits to Door County, to the Quad Cities (for the Bix Beiderbecke jazz festival), and to a friend's lake cottage in Michigan; then to our daughter's home for Xmas in Rochester, MN; a week or so in Florida, and in-between, a longer distance trip (usually with Elderhostel, last year to Hawaii). But the most fun in retirement (outside of the nice pension check increase every year) is the chance to just "hang out" with my two grandsons (Dave, 8 and Sam, 11). I think we've seen every G- and PG-rated film released in the last five years. (I also play a lot of poker and a not-too-shabby game of pool.)

Ved Prakash

Professor Emeritus Ved Prakash has basically taken a break from professional planning activities with the exception of a brief consulting assignment in Bangladesh and research on intergovernmental fiscal relations in India. Prior to retirement in 1998, he was one of the three founders of a biotech corporation—JP Bioregulators, Inc. (JPB). The two other founders were a UW professor of Horticulture and business consultant respectively. At that time (1996) the Horticulture professor had two patents which were assigned to Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF). In 1996, JPB and WARF entered into an agreement to further develop towards marketing the technology underlying the two patents. The product associated with this technology accelerates ripening of fruits and vegetables and prolongs freshness of fruits, vegetables, and flowers. JPB conducted further work and small-scale field trials for 3–4 years. The founders sold 80 per cent of the corporate shares to a Korean conglomerate on January 1, 2000. Ved worked with the new corporation (now known as NutraPark, Inc.) as a consultant/vice president for two years. NutraPark now employs about 30 people, has an office and laboratories in Middleton, and is expected to go public within the next 2–3 years. Ved and his wife have been traveling in the US and abroad. They became grandparents for the first time early in March this year, and they have visited their grandson Alex several times in Gainesville, where their daughter, Savita, is on the faculty of the University of Florida, Medical School and their son-in-law, Mike, is a freelance information system consultant.

Harold “Bud” Jordahl

Since his retirement in 1989 Harold “Bud” Jordahl has been, in a word, busy. He’s been active in public sector volunteering—particularly wrapping up a major project that began at URPL—and private sector citizen organizing, especially with Wisconsin land trusts.

On the public side, Bud continued work on the Northern Great Lakes regional visitors’ center, which was completed about 1995. He was active in the politics, policy, and planning aspects of this multi-agency regional educational center located near Bayfield, Wisconsin. Originally outlined in an URPL workshop, the project lasted eight years and involved the National Park Service, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin State Historical Society, and local groups.

Bud Chaired the Stewardship Advisory Committee to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in the latter half of the 1990s. The Committee called for a \$68 million Stewardship Fund; it was finally authorized and implemented to the tune of \$62 million.

On the private sector side, he helped found Gathering Waters Conservancy, a statewide land trust that provides technical assistance and education to 45 rural land trusts. It was founded in the mid-90s and Bud is serving his second year as President. He also helped found another land conservancy, the Driftless Area Land Conservancy, which focuses on a four-county region in southwest Wisconsin. And the Natural Heritage Land Trust, which focuses on Dane and surrounding counties, recently gave him a lifetime achievement award. He’s been busy and successful on that front!

In addition to his conservancy work Bud has been active in land use planning and Smart Growth in Wisconsin as one of the original members of the Board of Directors of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin. He served on the legislative committee, and 1000 Friends was one of the key actors in bringing about the State’s Smart Growth legislation (one of the critical components of this was the definition of a comprehensive plan). Bud notes that both Gathering Waters and 1000 Friends have employed URPL students as paid and volunteer interns, helping the organizations and the students, who still need to complete an internship as part of their coursework.

Bud has been active building local capacity for planning and land use decisions as well. He served for six years on the Board of Directors of the UW-Extension Rural Leadership Development Council, and he also works with Friends of Richland County, a citizen advocacy organization that pressures the county to conform to its zoning code and ordinances.

His work continues with the University as well, as he chaired the Gaylord Nelson Committee, fundraising \$500,000 for a Bascom Professorship in Nelson’s name for the Institute for Environmental Studies, a program closely affiliated with URPL.

On the personal side, Bud continues to restore the health and vitality of a Richland County farm, including putting land into a permanent conservation easement, forest management, and the development and maintenance of native prairie. Bud spends a good deal of time at the farm in these endeavors, as well as in the management of local wild turkey and deer populations with the assistance of family and friends.

FROM THE CHAIR *continued*

I’d be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge the long hours that our faculty committees spend in administering our academic programs. Every member of the faculty serves on one or more committees. And several faculty members are working on other special assignments (e.g., student recruiting, Extension education, web site) that directly benefit the department. Our major committees are currently chaired by Jack Huddleston (Master’s Program), Harvey Jacobs (Ph.D. Program), and Rick Chenoweth (Curriculum).

The Wisconsin Student Planners Association (WSPA) is also pursuing several ambitious initiatives. A new seminar series, featuring planning

practitioners, was instituted by the students this fall. In conjunction with our new research seminar series, coordinated by Marcus Lane, we’ve had an interesting array of speakers this semester. Efforts are also underway to create closer links between WSPA and our URPL alumni in Wisconsin and beyond. You may soon be asked to participate in our new student mentoring program. Mentoring relationships can take many forms: from traditional one-on-one contacts (in person or by phone or email) to hosting a group of students for an hour-long visit to your firm or department. Please consider donating a little of your time to this worthy cause.

