

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.



As I write this in mid-September, the state's elected officials have yet to pass a budget for this fiscal year. Wrangling over spending priorities is an expected part of the budgeting process. Yet the state's support to the university (adjusted for inflation) has been steadily declining for many years. In the age of "global cities" competing to attract the "creative class"—and harness the attendant economic and cultural benefits—disinvesting from the university seems especially shortsighted, if not counterproductive. We are coping with this challenge by strategically examining our goals and operational practices, then refocusing our human and fiscal resources on our highest priorities.

Sustaining our research preeminence and our high-quality graduate programs are fundamental to our continuing success in the national and international arena of planning education. In coordination with the CALS, L&S, and UW Extension administrations, we have been taking steps to reallocate resources, in some cases, and capture opportunities to enhance our capacity for excellence in research, teaching, and outreach. For example, our support staff now includes Drew Stathus, an experienced IT professional who we share with the Department of Political Science. We were also fortunate over the summer to add Dr. Alfonso Morales, whose expertise and interests in urban sociology, public policy, and entrepreneurship bring an exciting new dimension to the department.

URPL's Graduate Research Center also continues to transform to meet today's educational needs and to take advantage of the digital resources available

through the UW's library system. Just five years ago, this first floor space in Music Hall was an overstuffed room, densely packed with overflowing bookshelves and filing cabinets. We initially transferred to Memorial Library the bulk of our international and domestic collections of irreplaceable planning reports, maps, and studies. That purging (and permanent preservation) of planning documents created space for the URPL computer lab—which has 20 state-of-the-art workstations. Now in the third stage of the Research Center's transformation, we are transitioning away from hard-copy subscriptions of key planning journals, because these are available digitally (and online) through the campus libraries. The expected savings, which will be quite substantial, will be reinvested in reference materials, documentaries on DVD, and other planning resources that will especially enhance our teaching program.

Finally, as reported in the spring issue of this newsletter, our faculty and staff are preparing for our master's-program-reaccreditation visit in 2008–09. The accreditation of planning programs is sponsored jointly by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP), and the American Planning Association (APA). Our reaccreditation Self Study Report will describe our educational goals and mission, and provide evidence of our program's "effectiveness in preparing planning practitioners." This evidence will be drawn from surveys of our alumni, focus groups, course evaluations, and many other sources. (For more information on the accreditation process and standards, see www.acsp.org/pab.html.) Please keep an eye out, therefore, for the URPL alumni survey, which we will conduct with an online questionnaire.

Happy holidays, and best wishes for a healthy and fulfilling new year!

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URPL AND THE 48TH ACSP

The 48th conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, the annual professional meeting for planning scholars, met in Milwaukee in October. Most URPL faculty attended, giving sole and co-authored papers and participating in structured roundtable discussions. Below is noted those who participated and the major aspects of their participation.

Professor Jack Huddleston

- Fiscal Impact Analysis: Theory, Practice, Evaluation (session organizer and moderator)

Professor Harvey M. Jacobs

- A European “Growth Machine”? The Changing Role of Private Property Rights in the Planning Process (paper)
- Planning in the Aftermath of Measure 37 and Kelo: Strategy and Theory in an Era of Rising Property Rights Concerns (roundtable organizer and moderator)

Professor Jim LaGro

- Context-Sensitive Planning and Design for Livable and Sustainable Communities (paper)

Professor David Marcouiller

- Tourism and Its Distributional Impacts: A Ladder into the Middle Class (paper)

Professor Brian Ohm

- Implementing Wisconsin’s 1999 Comprehensive Planning Law: Land Use Reform to Support Sustainability (roundtable)

Assistant Professor Ken Genskow

- Designing a Regional System of Social Indicators for NonPoint Source Water Quality Planning and Evaluation (paper)

Assistant Professor Asli Göçmen

- Investigating a Disconnect Between Environmental Attitudes and Residential Preferences: The Role of Environmental Evaluations of Land Development Patterns (paper)
- Conservation Subdivision Design: Perceptions, Processes and Outcomes (roundtable)

Assistant Professor Alfonso Morales

- Public Markets and the Incubation of Small Business (paper)

Assistant Professor Kurt Paulsen

- The Effects of Land Development on Municipal Finance: Theory and Implications (paper)

Senior Scientist Susana Lastarria-Cornhiel

- Social Welfare and Gendered Impacts of Micro-Credit Programs (paper)

FACULTY NEWS

Professor Harvey M. Jacobs will be serving a second one-year term with the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (the Fulbright Commission) on the panel that reviews applications for the Fulbright Senior Specialists Program. The program invites applications from senior practitioners and scholars in planning for short international visits under the sponsorship of universities or public agencies.

Together with colleagues in botany, geography, and plant pathology, Harvey is a lead participant in the management of an exchange program for graduate students in the areas of land use and environmental studies between UW–Madison and l’Ecole Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Montpellier, France. This is the third year for the program. Each spring an URPL student has gone to study some aspect of urban sprawl and farmland protection in southern France.

Another part of Harvey’s continuing European work will soon lead to his participation with a frequent URPL visitor, Professor Rafael Crecente Maseda of the University of Santiago de Compostela, Lugo, in a new Spanish research program titled “Decision Support Systems for Land Use Planning at the

Local Level.” Harvey will be joined by **URPL affiliate, Professor Steven Ventura**, and participants from Brazil, Italy, and Norway.

Closer to home, in August, Harvey was the featured speaker to the Sensible Land Use Coalition of the Minnesota Twin Cities; his talk was part of the program “Property Rights vs. Community Rights: Backlash or Whiplash?” and in November, at the request of the LaFollette School of Public Affairs, he presented to the Wisconsin Governor’s budget team “Globalization of an American Ideal? Private Property in the 21st Century.” Harvey is the author of “New Actions or New Arguments over Regulatory Takings?” *Yale Law Journal Pocket Part 117* (2007): 65–70; <http://yalelawjournal.org/2007/09/16/jacobs.html>.

In October, John Wiley & Sons published the second edition of **Professor Jim LaGro’s** textbook *Site Analysis: A Contextual Approach to Land Planning and Site Design* (384 pages). The book is an expanded revision of the first edition, published in 2001. With several project case studies from leading design firms and more than 180 illustrations, this edition

reflects the state-of-the-art in sustainable land planning and site design. Like the first edition, it is written primarily for students in professional planning, landscape architecture, or architecture programs. The new book is also a resource for planning practitioners engaged in site plan and design review.

Jim continues his long association as an advisor on the *State of the Nation’s Ecosystems* project coordinated by The H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics and the Environment. For the past year, he has served on the Heinz Center’s Indicator Refinement Committee in support of the 2007 publication of the second “State of the Nation’s Ecosystems” report (available online at www.heinzctr.org/ecosystems).

Assistant Professor Ken Genskow is involved with several environmental planning research and outreach efforts with natural resource managers and university extension educators in Wisconsin and neighboring Great Lakes states. Notably, Ken is leading a multi-state project to integrate social indicators into watershed planning and management initiatives. Within Wisconsin, Ken is

working with several water quality projects over the next three years to link environmental analysis with contextual information on institutions and land management activities for planning and evaluation. Ken taught a workshop on this topic at USEPA's National Nonpoint Source Monitoring Conference this past August in Austin, Texas, and he will do so again in February at the USDA National Water Conference in Nevada. Ken also contributes to a variety of Wisconsin outreach programs related to urban and rural water quality, woodland management, and community engagement in natural resource management.

In 2007 **Assistant Professor Asli Göçmen** received two new research grants. The first is a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to investigate the environmental impacts of land development patterns (particularly open space conservation subdivisions) in Waukesha County, and to develop a GIS-based interactive tool-kit which will aid planners in the plan review process. The second is a two-year collaborative effort with colleagues at the Center for Land Use Education at UW–Stevens Point and the Land Information and Computer Graphics Facility at UW–Madison. This grant will fund an effort that integrates spatial decision support systems and local knowledge in order to prioritize farmland for preservation.

Asli was invited as a speaker to present findings from her Michigan-based research on residential preferences and environmental perceptions at the Yi-Fu Tuan Lecture series in the Geography Department at UW–Madison. Later this year on campus and in public forums, Asli plans to share her findings from a state-wide research project investigating the use of GIS among Wisconsin public planning agencies.

Assistant Professor Alfonso Morales has proposed to lead a session titled “Planning for Markets and Merchants” at the American Planning Association meeting in Las Vegas in the spring.

In Madison, he is consulting with area organizations on the possibilities of creating a new public market. Students in his classes (both fall and spring) will assist in this effort as well as gain valuable planning experience by identifying potential vendors, gauging their interest in initiating a business at the market and/or moving their business to the market, and analyzing the decision making processes of vendors as they embark on this important endeavor.

In the spring semester, Alfonso is scheduled to teach his version of Jerry Kaufman's classic course, Central City Planning.

Assistant Professor Kurt Paulsen attended the Transatlantic Land Use Conference in Washington, D.C. in September.

Senior Scientist Susana Lastarria-Cornhiel has been invited to participate in a workshop to launch a new program in Latin America called Rural Territorial Dynamics. This program seeks to address rural development policy and programming from a perspective of comprehensive rural strategies and policies. The underlying premise of the new program is that the multidimensional heterogeneity of rural Latin America is, in part, driven by territorial dynamics above and beyond processes occurring at the level of individuals, households, or social groups. The workshop will be held in Mexico City in late November 2007 under funding from Canada's International Development Research Center, and once functioning, is expected to work in 20 sites across 10 Latin American countries.

RECENT GIFTS TO URPL

We thank the following alumni, friends, and organizations for their very generous support:

David S. Boyd	Middleton, WI
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Patrick J. Trudgeon & Joanna L. Trudgeon	White Bear Lake, MN
Urban Trans Consultants	Denver, CO
Janis Gail Reek	Madison, WI

Your Gift Makes a Difference

Gifts to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning are critical to our success. Contributions through the UW Foundation's gift funds help us attract top graduate students and provide vital resources for planning education enrichment. Gifts support the URPL library (journal subscriptions) and computer lab (planning support software), and strengthen the URPL community in a variety of other ways. Recent gifts, for example, have funded URPL alumni receptions (at ACSP and APA meetings), the publication and mailing of this newsletter, and travel subsidies for URPL's students to attend planning conferences.

Please see the **UW Foundation Gift Form** enclosed with this issue of *Connections*. We promise careful stewardship of URPL gift funds. Gifts of any amount are welcome and gratefully received.

CONNECTIONS STAFF:

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**CHECK OUT
 OUR WEB SITE**

We invite you to visit the URPL Web site 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 and students
- ◆ Alumni news



In spring semesters 2006 and 2007, Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz (chess-LEV-itch) was invited by the faculty to teach a one-credit class in URPL on aspects of cities and urban management. In this brief essay, Mayor Dave (as he is known throughout the city) reflects on what he brought to that experience, and what he took away.

In the past two years I have had the honor and the opportunity to teach two courses in the department. I joke with my students that the great University of Wisconsin—my alma mater—has come to this, allowing a lowly politician to actually teach classes. But I do my best and, as it turns out, I don't need to worry that I am leading anyone astray as my students consistently challenge me and they accept nothing at face value—very much like my constituents.

In spring of 2006 I taught a course called The Power of Cities. It was an expanded version of a talk I have been giving for a decade, since I was the government relations director of The Nature Conservancy. The premise for the talk and the course is that the most powerful pro-environmental act that any of us can do is to make our home in a city. City residents take up less space, use fewer natural resources, contribute less to global warming and air pollution, drive less, and so on. In fact, one of my guest speakers, Don Chen from Smart Growth America, gave a great presentation in which he talked about a study showing that the average urbanite has a much smaller environmental footprint—without trying—than the average large-lot exurban dweller. In other words, the most environmentally conscious exurbanite contributes much more to our environmental woes than the average city dweller, even if the urbanite makes no effort to be green. Cities, by their very compact natures, help people live with less impact on the environment. Yet, the dominant paradigm is that nature lovers go to live in the country. The better ethic would be “if you love nature, make your home in the city.” It's a powerful message for me

because it was developing these ideas as executive director of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, following my stint at The Nature Conservancy, that led me to think about running for Mayor of Madison.

I enjoyed teaching the Power of Cities, but when I was invited back to teach again in spring 2007, I chose a much more practical topic: the nuts and bolts of running a good city. I took on the big issues facing our city today: transportation, housing, water quality, environmental and historic preservation, economic development, and regionalism. I relied heavily on the city's terrific public managers as well as selected UW academics. To my surprise the students were very engaged in even the most detailed discussions of public management. For instance, City Engineer Larry Nelson's discussion of street pavement management was a huge hit with the students. They kept him after class to ask him about things like seal coating!

Teaching these classes is, I am convinced, much more valuable to me than it is to my students. It gives me a chance to reflect on the big picture and to organize my thoughts. I always learn something in the preparation for my classes. And I learn things from students. They challenge me by looking at things with fresh eyes. Too often we tend to fall into intellectual ruts, accepting paradigms and premises simply out of habit or out of exhaustion. It takes a lot of energy to challenge the status quo. But that is not true for students in my classes. They are not weighed down by repetition, and they are eager to question the way things are done.

One last word about the university. Now more than ever, the UW is the intellectual and economic engine of our state. The attacks on the university from the State Legislature are hurting the UW, and if they continue much longer, they will hurt not only Madison's economy but that of the entire state. I have always been proud of my alma mater, but the experience of teaching in URPL has given me an even deeper appreciation for the university. It is time for all of us who recognize its significance to fight for its future.

URPL'S EMERITI—LIFE IN RETIREMENT

URPL now has about the same number of living retired faculty as there are active members of the faculty. This past summer we invited our emeriti to share with us some news about their lives "post-URPL." For most of them, at some level, life doesn't seem to have changed very much. That is, they are still engaged in advocating for planning. It is just that their venue has changed from the classroom to, well, here are some of the responses we received.



Steve Born

Before retiring from URPL in January 2005, I had been bombarded by retired UW faculty with the refrain "how do you find the time to be a full-time faculty member?" Now that

I'm emeritus, I realize what they were saying! Since retiring, I have continued pursuing the same passions for water, watersheds, environmental planning and management, and resources policy that underpinned my academic career, and meshed perfectly with my avocation—flyfishing the waters of the world. Most of my "work" these days is with nongovernmental organizations, with a sprinkling of governmental and university service rolled in.

Since retiring, I have continued working with Trout Unlimited. Presently I am pushing a plan to internationalize the organization, and in the face of global warming, position it to advocate on behalf of the world's coldwater fisheries and watersheds. For the past few years, I have also served on TU Canada's National Resources Board, which is trying to emulate the results the U.S. organization has achieved. And I have joined the Board of the Henry's Fork Foundation—a conservation organization concerned about the fabled Henry's Fork of the

Snake River in southeast Idaho (which embraces one of the largest irrigation districts in the nation and is under assault from recreational land developers). Needless to say, there has been a little time for piscatorial pursuits out there in the heart of the Yellowstone ecosystem.

Closer to home, I continue to serve on the Watershed Association Board of the Black Earth Creek, a stream just west of Madison that is directly in the path of urbanization (former students will remember field trips out there, complete with fishing lessons and a stop at the Shoe Box). I have also been serving as president of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, working on land use and transportation issues confronting Wisconsin. This array of non-governmental engagements helped in my co-authoring a paper (my last?) with URPL Assistant Professor Ken Genskow on the organizational dynamics of watershed associations. As part of a consortium, I am working to secure funding to implement the state's pioneering nonpoint pollution abatement program, a natural follow-up to my having served as co-chair of the state's Manure Management Task Force—a job for which too many suggested I was uniquely qualified. My service to UW continues as well, principally helping the Nelson Institute organize their outreach efforts and conferences.

In short, I have kept busy with some professional pursuits, while making sure I find time to regularly fish in Patagonia and the western US, as well as in Wisconsin's mesmerizing spring creeks. I am also learning something about the stresses on junior faculty pursuing tenure through my son Branden, who obtained his PhD at URPL under Jerry Kaufman, and is now an assistant professor of planning at the University of Washington.

I love hearing from former students about things personal and professional: in the latter stages of my academic career, I came to more fully realize that you are our most important product. Please drop me a line (smborn@wisc.edu).

Herman Felstehausen

One of my passions, as many of you know, is the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright. It also happens to be a convenient interest because of the way architecture forms a bridge with urban planning and design.



I live on Madison's near west side not far from the Hilldale shopping center. Fifty years ago, Hilldale and surrounding farmland formed Madison's western boundary. City, state, and university specialists participated in forming a west-side development proposal inspired partly by planners such as Ladislav Segoe (whose name is on Segoe Road). From the beginning, Hilldale was planned as a total community with all services within walking distance.

Hilldale is now undergoing major redevelopment, claiming to apply the principles of "new urbanism." As a planner and now a neighbor, I have begun to wonder if there isn't a better way to direct urban redevelopment? The question was on my mind as my wife and I visited the Netherlands, Germany, and Japan earlier this year. Visits there gave us a new view of urban design and the possibilities for the restoration of important historic cities. The message in both Europe and Japan is that it is possible to achieve quality development while continuing to give priority to social space at a human scale. Those countries have less trouble than we do in placing the automobile into the background.

Germany leads Europe in restoring historic cities and returning social life to the city square. The old towns were built at human scale, natural and organic in their design. They are often laid out in continuous corridors of interest and surprise—accessible on foot. Social and functional spaces are combined. Walking paths thread past shops

Continued on next page

and houses along green corridors that block traffic out. Historic architecture and classic monuments brighten the journey. And if possible, it all ends at a quiet oasis—something like the Memorial Union Terrace on the lakefront (not by accident one of Madison's most memorable spots). Thousands of visitors flock to the old city centers. The tourist economy alone makes restoration worthwhile.

So how do they do it? It is more than nostalgia. Planners and designers have discovered that a new kind of planning is required. They start by acknowledging that city development cannot be left totally to private initiative. A permanent public presence is required. Someone must speak for the community. The Dutch-German solution has been to restructure the planning process to encourage public planners and private developers to engage in more frequent negotiation. Mayors, council members and citizens get involved in offering alternatives.

It is also important that public planners provide context and long-term goals for urban areas undergoing major changes. A project the size of Hilldale would not likely have proceeded as far as it has without public officials calling for an area plan. Local Madison residents are still unaware that Hilldale is only one of a half dozen large-scale surrounding developments.

Thinking and speaking out about these issues are some of the ways I occupy my spare time. Someone once said that retirement was just the beginning of a new career designed especially for yourself. That has become my view of architecture and urban design.

Beth Howe



For the first ten years after I retired the only planning I did was serve on the planning board for my town in

Maine. Cumberland is a mostly affluent suburb of Portland. Since 1820 it has also included the off-shore island of Chebeague,

where I live. I was doing so little planning that I gave away all my planning books and journals.

Chebeague is located in Casco Bay in southwestern Maine. It is accessible by passenger-only ferries. It has a year-round population of about 350, including lobstermen, island small-business owners, commuters to mainland, and retirees. There is also a large, stable population of summer residents, many of whom have come for generations. It has a very active voluntary sector that provides a wide variety of services.

My retirement from planning ended in 2005 when the mainland school district began to move toward closing the island's elementary school. Since the 1950s islanders have accepted sending middle and high school students to school by ferry, but everyone thought that it would be impossible to sustain an economically diverse, year-round community if little kids had to ride the ferry every day as well. So Chebeague decided to secede from the Town of Cumberland and become independent.

2005–06 was spent working through the process of secession—from choosing a group of local secession representatives to getting the State Legislature to pass a bill allowing us to secede. Ultimately all of the steps were successfully negotiated and we were scheduled to become independent on July 1, 2007.

That meant that the island's residents had a year to prepare for setting up the new town from scratch. There was agreement that the town would have a traditional New England town-meeting form of government. In various committees more than 100 people out of a population of 350 became actively involved in the transition process.

Almost by accident I became the secretary to the principal Transition Committee. Less accidentally, I also became the Chairperson of the Land Use Subcommittee. We debated whether the town should have a building code, and worked on the zoning, subdivision, growth management and floodplain management ordinances, and the budget for planning and code enforcement.

We borrowed heavily from our "parent" town of Cumberland. This was a reasonable strategy, but the fit between the needs of a semirural island and those of a rapidly grow-

ing, affluent suburb was hardly perfect. So during the transition process I wrote two successful grant applications: one to develop a comprehensive plan and to revise all the ordinances in light of the plan; the other to develop a GIS system for the community.

The first town meeting of the new Town of Chebeague Island was held on our independence day, July 1, 2007. Fireworks and a week of celebrations followed, and then we settled down to the task of running the town.

A seven-member planning board was appointed, of which I am now the chair. I work with a part-time employee to deal with any applications and to respond to planning-related questions. For those of you who remember Beth, the social planner, this transformation into a traditional land use planner in a small community may seem ironic.

But a bit of the social planner lives on in my role as chair of the Chebeague Island Community Association's Housing Committee. This group has been working to provide affordable housing for young year-round families in a housing market that has been bid beyond their means. Secession has allowed us to keep our elementary school open, but it is equally necessary to provide housing that families with young children can afford.

So be warned about retirement to a small and self-sufficient community. The community enfolds, supports, and entertains even newcomers, but it expects people to use whatever skills they have to sustain the community as well. I came with skills in planning (among other things) and I am expected to use them on the community's behalf.

H.C. "Bud" Jordahl Jr.

Retirement has not diminished my interest or involvement in planning; in fact having more time has permitted me to devote substantial energy to several facets of "land use" which I could not pursue when fully engaged at URPL.

I was a long-serving board member of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, a group focused primarily on land-use issues, both rural and



urban, throughout Wisconsin. Our initial success came in the 1999 revision of Wisconsin's statewide law for planning. This was the first significant change in the statutes since 1920s. 1000 Friends has served as a non-profit advocacy, educational, and technical assistance organization to local units of government in the implementation of the law's requirements. To be sure, there was and continues to be conservative opposition to the law. Early in my career, I heard a wise veteran planner define planning as a political process. I can only hope that high-level political and public support will continue to keep the so-called smart growth program alive and well, so we can maintain and strengthen the integrity of Wisconsin lands.

I have continued my advocacy role for land stewardship. I chaired the Advisory Committee to the state Department of Natural Resources on stewardship, which provided the template for the subsequent Governor's Committee on Stewardship, which in turn produced the basis for legislative approval and the current \$60 million per-year state bonding program for land protection. As part of this effort, I wrote news releases and letters to the editor, and spoke to and advised citizen organizations on the importance of the program, all of which helped to strengthen bipartisan political support. I want to believe that these efforts framed intelligent debate and discussion.

Long before retirement, I felt that private land trusts could perform important roles in shaping and influencing land use and protecting important natural resources at the local level. By involving local people, local trusts, and local governments, we are strengthening local programs of land use planning, regulation, smart growth stewardship, etc., all of which come together to strengthen statewide political support for the state to assume an even more important role than now in state and sub-state planning. In retirement, I served on the board of the Gathering Waters Conservancy, a statewide land trust and land trust service bureau.

Throughout my career I had concerns for the problems of the northern "cut-over" region of the state and indeed the entire northern Great Lakes regions of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan. The ravages of

uncontrolled early mining, destructive logging, exploitative fishing, and unwise attempts at rural settlement and agriculture left these areas bankrupt. Though these destructive practices are largely a thing of the past, the region still suffers from significantly lower levels of economic and social activity and structure. To reflect this history, I became actively involved in establishing the Great Lakes Regional Visitor Center in Ashland, Wisconsin. The center interprets and displays the tragic resource exploitation of the past, the current status of natural resources in the region, and the choices citizens have today to ensure a wiser future. In 2006 the number of visitors to the center passed the one-million mark. An URPL workshop on the feasibility of such a center more than 20 years ago evolved into a report to the Congress, and had a significant influence on the ultimate project. My role was to keep an informed local/state/federal advisory committee functioning and on track, and to deal with the complex political forces, both state and federal, which eventually resulted in funding the creation of the center.

Jerry Kaufman



Soon after I retired in 2001 I engaged in a new daily ritual.

Every morning I sat down to figure out how I wanted to spend all the free time I

now had. No more URPL or university committee work assignments or papers to read or talks to give. Now, if I make wrong choices or decisions, I have no one to blame but myself. So, how am I doing since retiring? All in all, I'd give myself an AB—a few screw-ups, but mostly life goes well.

In my personal life, I continue to feed both my body and soul. Here are a few highlights. I have become a semi-serious recorder player, taking lessons, playing occasionally in recorder groups locally, and spending a glorious week each summer at the Clearing in Ellison Bay, Door County toodling six hours a day with some very talented recorder players. My interest in music led my wife and I to

start a unique choir, now in its sixth year, that sings only Yiddish music—music drawn from a rich lore of older Eastern European times. Keeping my body fit is a constant quest. Each summer, I join a few retired and yet-to-retire URPL faculty once a week on a 10- to 20-mile ride on one of the splendid bike trails that crisscross Madison and its region. And I have thoroughly succumbed to the pleasures of being a grandparent. My wife and I get all the smiles, hugs, and kisses from our delightful four year old grandson, Benji, and at night we can even sleep soundly.

What about my life as a planner? As I sat down to write this, I dusted off the talk I gave to URPL students and faculty shortly before I retired in May 2001, reflecting on my almost 30 years in URPL. One characteristic I noted about myself was that I had a propensity to fill holes in the planning field. Consider these: an article I wrote on an approach to planning for women in 1974, several articles on planning ethics with Beth Howe in the early 1980s, an article I wrote with Harvey Jacobs applying the corporate strategic planning approach to public planning in the mid 1980s, collaborating on a book applying alternative dispute resolution techniques to the planning field in the late 1980s, and a chapter I wrote in an APA book on the role of the planner in improving urban education in 1994.

Which leads me to the journey I started on in the late 1990s into the empty field of community food system planning, a journey I continue on to this day. In retirement, I have been active locally and with the profession. I am a member of the recently created Dane County Food Council, and I devote a good chunk of time to serving as president of the Board of Directors of Growing Power in Milwaukee; in my judgment the preeminent community-based urban agriculture organization in the U.S. I have also been working with others to push the food-planning pea up the planning profession mountain. In March 2007, we reached the loftiest perch yet: getting the APA Board to adopt a policy guide on community and regional food planning, which now puts food planning squarely on the planning profession's radar screen.

Ever onward and upward.

Ved Prakash



One year prior to my retirement in January 1998, I joined two other people (one a UW professor in horticulture and the other an entrepreneur) and founded a small biotechnology corporation. The technology was based on several patents assigned by the horticulture professor to the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF). The new corporation had obtained a license from WARF for transferring and marketing the technology related to the development and testing of lysophosphatidyletanolamine (LPE) products; LPE products accelerate uniform ripening and

extend shelf-life of vegetables, fruits, and flowers. I also continued my international consulting for two years after retirement. Then, early in 2000, a South Korean conglomerate purchased 80 percent of the nascent corporation. I worked with the new corporation for two years, 2000–01, and was involved in setting up their offices and laboratories in Madison.

Several years ago, I joined PLATO (Participatory Learning and Teaching Organization). PLATO is a participatory and member-directed learning-in-retirement association committed to continually developing and promoting intellectual and cultural enrichment opportunities for its members within the setting of the university. I have been one of the coordinators for a course on “Managing Your Money.” During the last three years or so, I became the treasurer of the organization. I

also volunteer my services for a range of other organizations.

My wife, Raj, and I have been traveling regularly in the U.S. and abroad. Our older daughter, Neeti, has been a school teacher in Guam for many years. She enjoys teaching and has been the president of the teachers’ union for the last several years and is active in Guam politics. Our younger daughter, Savita, moved from Florida to South Bend, Indiana last year. She is an ENT surgeon, married and has two boys (Alex is 5 and Ben is 3); we see the Collins family often. At the beginning of this year, the family came together to celebrate Raj and my 50th wedding anniversary as well as my 75th birthday.

I keep in touch with goings-on in URPL through monthly dinner and poker with six URPL emeriti faculty and Jack Huddleston.

Keep Us Posted!

Please help! We are trying to modernize and update our alumni data. Your e-mail address will help us keep track of you and facilitate communication when you want to contact your fellow alumni.

Have you moved? Yes No

When did you graduate from URPL? _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Where are you working? _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Any comments or news to share?: _____

MAIL THIS FORM TO: connections

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