FROM THE CHAIR

Stephen M. Born

Alumni are our most important supporters. Many have gone on to enjoy great success in their careers with local, state and federal governments, the private sector, or nonprofit organizations. Over the years, the Department has benefitted from all kinds of assistance from URPL alums – from help with internship placement to hiring of new graduates to financial aid. To institutionalize the linkage with our alumni, we have just formed our first URPL Alumni Advisory Council (the membership is listed on page 7 of this issue of Connections). The 23-member group represents a broad range of professional experience and geographic location. Our first meeting, by teleconference, took place in September. We look forward to capitalizing on this invaluable resource – our graduates – and thank all of you who “volunteered” to serve; we had more volunteers than slots to fill!

As we welcome an incoming class of students, change is the constant. We have two new faculty members, Drs. Victoria Beard and Marcus Lane. Their expertise and energy will add greatly to the Department; the additions are especially welcome as URPL prepares for the retirements this year of Professors Jerry Kaufman and Ben Niemann. Judy Holmes, our URPL office administrator, has also decided to retire in January, having “mothered” many generations of URPL students through the labyrinth of graduate education. We’re presently planning a fall 2001 event that will provide the incentive for many of our alumni to join us in Madison (see box on p. 4), more on that prospect later. Also, thanks to the perseverance of Associate Professor Jim LaGro, we now have a new computer/GIS lab, which we share with the Geography Department, filling a long-standing need of the Department.

We hope the new millennium has started well for you, and that your URPL education continues to contribute to your professional development. As we do every year, we again ask for your financial help through ear-marked contributions to the UW Foundation. These funds enable the Department to assist students in numerous ways, as well as meet important departmental needs that cannot be met through spartan university budgets. A big advance thanks for your generous support – it’s genuinely appreciated. And let us hear from you!

FOCUS ON ALUMNI

Merritt Bussiere

“Pursue your dreams.” Often easier said than done, but Merritt Bussiere is trying to put his own words of advice into practice. This self-proclaimed old hippy lives on a 40-acre organic farm in Wisconsin’s Kewaunee County with his wife of twenty-three years, Jill Taylor Bussiere, and their children. Merritt spends his free time playing acoustic guitar, sometimes accompanied by his oldest daughter Elena, who plays penny whistle, recorder, fiddle, bagpipes and panpipes. His family has never owned a television, or a clothes dryer. Busier than most people, Merritt and Jill have also “un-schooled” their kids. Yes, it’s safe to say that Merritt’s “old hippy” moniker is deserved.

But Merritt Bussiere also deserves many other labels, such as community planner and land use specialist. Graduating with his Masters from URPL in 1988, he has dedicated his career to educating and fostering communities in the northern United States. Merritt reflects on his time at URPL.

continued on next page
Q: Who were your contemporaries during your time at URPL in the mid-eighties?
A: The same people who would struggle to remember my name. Just kidding. Students in the department included Victor Brusi, Joe Moskal, Leah Leonard, Carolyn Kennedy, Tim McClain, Rick Roll, Tom Weigand, Scott Pickett, Tim DamGaard, Stuart Grogan, Ruth Brickner, Craig Kettleson, Gerry Bougie, Jerry Vogt, Elaine Van Speybroeck, Curt Borden, and Julie Dombrowski. Among the Faculty at that time were Jerry Kaufman, Harvey Jacobs, Beth Howe, Ved Prakash, John Roberts, Bud Jordahl (Emeritus), and Steve Born. [The] staff included Judy Holmes and Pat Cantrell.

Q: What did you do right after graduating from the program?
A: I was walking past Bud Jordahl’s office door the day after graduating. He invited me in and offered me a job as Project Coordinator for the then as yet conceptual Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. Bud, for those of you who don’t remember him, had a really interesting career, serving as Wisconsin Governor Gaylord Nelson’s natural resource honcho, as first Chair of Wisconsin’s Natural Resource Board (predecessor to the DNR), as federal Co-Chair of the Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission, and, not least, as an URPL faculty member. The project office was in the basement of Music Hall in a closet.

After his time in the basement, Merritt moved to Winslow, Maine to take up the role of Economic Development Director for the North Kennebec Regional Planning Commission, where he was responsible for the region’s economic development plan and program. In the late summer of ‘92 Merritt moved back to Wisconsin, working with UW–Extension as a Community Development Educator until March of ’97. After a period working with a private engineering firm, founding and running their community planning and development section, Merritt rejoined Extension, this time as a Land Use Education Specialist.

Q: What are you doing now, professionally?
A: In August 2000, I started working as a Land Use Education Specialist with the Cooperative Extension arm of UW–Extension. UWEX is mobilizing resources to address county and local needs for planning education in the wake of Wisconsin’s adoption of “Smart Growth” comprehensive planning legislation in 1999. Generally, although the position has some statewide responsibilities, my main focus is to provide technical and process support for UWEX county faculty in northeast Wisconsin in the areas of comprehensive planning and implementation.

Q: How does your current job build on your background?
A: Hmmm... This is very much a natural path. Because a large part of my current job supports UWEX county faculty in their work with communities and consultants and public agencies, my background really works for me. I also find that serving for a while as a city plan commissioner helped teach me about the politics of planning.

Q: How did URPL play a role in your professional career?
A: 12 years after graduation, not a day goes by that I don’t use something that I learned at URPL. Jerry Kaufman, in particular, has had a great impact on my work as a planner and as an educator.

Q: Any words of wisdom you wish to give URPL students and/or recent grads?
A: Wisdom is probably a strong word for anything I can offer. If I could go back to college/grad school and start over I’d look for applied settings in which to develop strong process design and facilitation skills, mediation skills. The more planning process and decision-making options you can give your clients, the better. URPL/UWEX faculty and staff were pivotal in connecting me with 4 out of the 5 jobs I’ve had since graduating in 1988. [In addition,] don’t be afraid to propose a great idea to someone with resources, [and to] pursue your dreams.
Elaine Harrington graduated from URPL in 1991 and is currently the Executive Director of the Rockford Park District Foundation in Rockford, Illinois. She is a great example of two important characteristics of both past and present students in URPL—the experiences students have had before coming to the program are incredibly diverse, as are the paths their lives will follow when they leave URPL. Here she shares with us her experiences in URPL and post-URPL.

**Q:** Who were your contemporaries in the department?

**A:** Steve Gregg and I worked together before entering the program at about the same time. I didn’t know too many other students well because I commuted from Rockford, 75 miles away. I also had a very young child (in fact was pregnant my first semester). This also drew me home rather than into the student community.

**Q:** What are you doing now?

**A:** I am now the Executive Director of the Rockford Park District Foundation in Rockford, IL. It is a position that offers a wonderful blending of my interests and experience in fund development (Beloit College and Northern Public Radio at Northern Illinois University) and urban planning. The Foundation exists to support the mission of the Rockford Park District and does so primarily through the cultivation of major gifts, including land.

Among the goals the Foundation is currently considering is the accumulation of endowed funds to assist the District in acquiring lands along the Rock River, which runs through the city and adjacent communities. The Foundation holds gifts of land desired for park purposes so that they can be used as local matches for state grants. Once this use is accomplished, the land is transferred to the District.

**Q:** What is the driving force for you in your career?

**A:** I am personally committed to making my community the best that it can be for all who live here. Toward that end, I just finished a commitment serving on a Citizens Advisory Committee to the U.S. District Court in Rockford which oversees a federal discrimination suit against the Rockford School District, have worked in the leadership of a local community health center foundation, the League of Women Voters, the board of a private, non-traditional elementary school, and my neighborhood association.

While my work in the past ten years has had more regional and national connections than my current position, its depth appeals to me. The Rockford Park District is one of the finest in the country (based on the awards it has won), and affects people in every sector of the community. Raising funds in support of this organization offers the opportunity to make a profound difference here.

**Q:** How does your current job build on your background?

**A:** I attended URPL as an Experienced Individual based on my work as a social service planner with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (my first career was in social work). The program was interesting to me because of its emphasis areas in social planning, land use planning, and how communities develop. I have pursued those interests both through professional and volunteer activities. Currently I am involved in a project with the League of Women Voters of Greater Rockford to help create a community vision and to improve the community ability to solve problems constructively. We are working in collaboration with the National Civic League.

**Q:** How did URPL play a role in your professional career?

**A:** The training I received through coursework in dispute resolution, program evaluation, land use planning, and public administration has been important and influential in my work. I am grateful for the opportunity to do several independent studies, including one on downtown redevelopment. It has and does apply directly to my work: my office overlooks the river in downtown Rockford and for six years I sat on the board of a museum complex in this same area, one that is a core part of the growing “cultural corridor” downtown is becoming.

**Q:** Why do you think URPL needs to maintain a high profile among alumni?

**A:** It is important for any organization that relies on its constituents for influence, funding, positioning, etc. to maintain good communication with that group. Good communication can also continue to add value to the work of graduates as changes in the field are identified through teaching and research. These add a different dimension to information gained through professional organizations, etc.
**“PLANNING IN THE NEW CENTURY” EVENT**

**What?**
An alumni gathering to celebrate planning in the 21st millennium.

**Why?**
1) A chance to reconnect with old classmates and other alumni
2) Challenging and provocative planning
3) See “old” faculty, and celebrate a retirement or two
4) Experience the many changes in Madison, including the New Frank Lloyd Wright Convention Center, where the URPL event will be held
5) Take a brief vacation to enjoy early fall in southern Wisconsin and the Madison region with family and friends.

**When?**
Friday, September 28 (starts at noon)–Saturday, September 29, 2001

Look for future information, but mark your calendars now!

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**PLANNING IN THE NETHERLANDS**

*Jerry Kaufman*

In mid–June 2000, I returned to Madison from an almost year long stay in Amsterdam. This was the second time in 6 years that I lived there for an extended time. During this trip I taught a class on American planning to 85 Dutch planning students at the University of Amsterdam and conducted research in the friendly and intellectually stimulating confines of the University’s Amsterdam Study Centre for the Metropolitan Environment.

Living on the outer edge of the old city (the part dating back several centuries) my wife Judy and I shared a small 3 room apartment (the Dutch would call it “gezellig” or cozy) in a modern seven-story building. Our building, designed by a Swedish architect very conscious of the need for maximum light to penetrate the inside living space (we had floor to ceiling windows in our living room), sat beside one of the city’s innumerable picturesque canals. Our perch afforded us a panoramic view of the surroundings, which among other things included a 6 block long neighborhood market filled with colorful stalls and shouting hawkers, where you could buy just about anything, and relatively cheaply—e.g., fish, meat, vegetables, flowers, clothing, buttons, pots and pans, etc.

Our Amsterdam life style dramatically differed from our Madison life style. I biked almost daily to my office. We owned no car, relying instead on bikes, our walking shoes, and the city’s excellent transit system of trams, buses, and light rail, each mode having a 10–12 minute headway. Culture, transportation, and housing was not only accessible, but affordable. We bought museum cards for $25 apiece which allowed us virtually free admission to any museum in the country for the year. A railroad pass cost us $50 for the year, entitling us to a 40% discount on any train ride in the country, and a 30% discount to any other European country. Sixty percent of the city’s housing stock is social or subsidized housing, which makes housing affordable not only for the poor, but for many in the lower middle class as well.

With only 720,000 people, in the size range of Milwaukee, Amsterdam reeks with much history, beauty, tolerance, ethnic diversity, and cultural amenities of the first order. For us, it was a wonderful year abroad in an exhilarating city.
Victoria Beard joins the faculty with a B.A. degree in Urban Studies in Planning (University of California, San Diego), an M.A. in Urban Planning (University of California, Los Angeles), and a Ph.D. in Community and Regional Planning (University of British Columbia). Her research and teaching program focuses on planning in developing countries, planning theory, poverty alleviation, community-based planning, and qualitative research methods.

She is broadly interested in the urbanization, development, and planning processes taking place in developing countries and the social and political implications of these processes. Additional interests include citizen involvement in planning and how local people plan outside formal regulatory frameworks to achieve social transformation.

Prior to joining the faculty Professor Beard was a RAND Fellow in the Study of Aging where she was a co-Principal Investigator on the third Indonesian Family Life Survey. She has also worked as a consultant for the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. Professor Beard hopes to continue her research and professional work on poverty alleviation and community-based planning in Indonesia and other developing countries.

This semester Professor Beard is teaching a course on international development planning theory and next semester she will teach a related course on international development planning practice. Contact her directly for more information. Her e-mail address is vabeard@facstaff.wisc.edu.

Marcus Lane joins the department from RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia. He holds a Bachelor of Science (with Honors) in environmental science from Griffith University, and a Ph.D. in environmental planning from the University of Queensland.

His current research program is broadly concerned with the interaction of civil society and the state in environmental planning. His planned Wisconsin research will focus on: i) the articulation and accommodation of indigenous perspectives and interest in land and resource planning, and ii) a comparative evaluation of a nested hierarchy of planning processes in terms of procedural fairness. His teaching program in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning will include courses on indigenous peoples and natural resource management, environmental politics and planning, and environmental impact assessment.

Lane has an extensive record of planning practice and has provided consulting services in community-based environmental planning, forest management, public participation, and environmental impact assessment. He recently co-edited (with G.T. McDonald) *Securing the Wet Tropics*, which deals with the conservation of forest values in historical perspective, published by Federation Press. He is currently co-editing a book on social impact assessment, to be titled *Institutionalizing Social Assessment in Resource Management*.

NEW COMPUTER LAB

Through a cooperative venture between the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and the Department of Geography, URPL students now have access to a state-of-the-art computing facility. Nearly $80,000 was recently awarded for this project through the University’s Instructional Laboratory Modernization (ILM) program. Applications for funding were submitted through each department’s respective college - in URPL’s case, both the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and the College of Letters and Science.

The computer lab, located in Science Hall, is equipped with 29 Dell Pentium III computers (800 MHz, 256 MB memory), each with a zip drive, read/write CD drive, and 19" monitor. Assorted peripheral equipment in the lab facilitates data input (e.g., scanners, digitizers) and output (e.g., printers, plotters). The lab is available to students in geography (undergraduates and graduates) and in urban and regional planning (graduates) for course-related work. A variety of software is available on these machines, including S-Plus (statistics), Arc/Info, ArcView and GRASS (GIS), ERDAS Imagine (image processing), and both Corel and Microsoft office suites.
CURRENT RESEARCH: PH.D. PROGRAM

An important aspect of the department’s research mission involves the training of the next generation of planning faculty. The department currently has in residence eleven Ph.D. students in various stages of their degree programs. The research interests of several of these students are summarized below.

Barbara (Osh) Anderson is interested in examining the role that human motivations and preferences play as drivers of landscape change in Dane County, Wisconsin’s urban fringe. Her dissertation research will utilize a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods to examine the ethnographic, historical, social, and spatial aspects of land use change on the urban fringe.

Martin Bailkey, in collaboration with Professor Jerry Kaufmann, recently published a report titled Farming Inside Cities: Entrepreneurial Urban Agriculture in the United States. This report is also available at the Lincoln Institute’s website, Urban agriculture is also the subject of Martin’s dissertation research, which will investigate the opportunities and constraints facing community non-profit organizations that try to gain control of vacant city-owned urban parcels. This will entail comparative case studies of Boston, Philadelphia and a third city, to be determined.

NEWS FROM THE LAND TENURE CENTER

Harvey Jacobs

Since July 1999, Harvey Jacobs has served on a one-half time basis as director of the University’s Land Tenure Center (LTC). LTC was founded in the same year as URPL – 1962. LTC is the leading U.S. university-based institution involved in research and training on the relationship of landownership and land use to economic development, social structure, political organization and environmental sustainability; globally, it is one of two leading institutions. Since its inception LTC has been a vehicle for the provision of applied research and technical assistance to over 75 countries worldwide. LTC is a university-based think tank – it exists as a source of new ideas about land tenure, to influence public debate about these ideas (within the U.S. and globally), and to shape the ideas of others through research, technical assistance, and training activities.

Some of LTC’s current major projects include work in Albania, Zimbabwe, Trinidad and Tobago, and North America. LTC has been working in Albania since 1994 on introducing private property to this former state-socialist country, and assisting in everything that flows from this – the design of land title and registration systems and offices, new planning legislation and procedures, and the training of professionals in how to deal with the new market circumstances. Zimbabwe has been in the international press throughout the year, because of the conflicts over land confiscation and redistribution. LTC has just begun work on the land problem there, and will be in the country over the next three years.

In the U.S., LTC is co-recipient with Tuskegee University in Alabama of a grant to establish a national Center for Minority Land and Community Security. As part of this program an externship program for law students exists for work opportunities in underserved communities on land issues. In June 2001 the third “Who Owns America?” conference will be held in Madison, focusing on minority land issues in North America. More information about LTC can be obtained at http://www.wisc.edu/ltc/

Ken Genskow is nearing the completion of his dissertation (Critical Factors for Watershed Partnerships — Mapping Pathways to Success). His research has utilized qualitative methods to examine the critical factors that affect the achievements of collaborative, public-private, resource-management partnerships at seven case watersheds in Wisconsin, Washington, and North Carolina.

Eric Olson, a second-year Ph.D. student, is interested in the relationships between protected natural areas (Wisconsin state parks) and neighboring communities. Eric hopes to answer questions such as: In what ways can the park and park management benefit the local communities? In what ways can the community and community residents benefit the park? What are the barriers that prevent cooperation?

Samina Raja will be conducting a study of the accuracy of fiscal impact methodologies. Predictions of traditional fiscal impact analysis will be compared to empirical estimates of the actual fiscal impacts within a sample of municipalities in Dane County. This research should provide communities, policy makers, and planners with empirical evidence on the limitations of the methods they use to gauge the fiscal impacts of new development.

Mark Stevens is interested in the “roles” played by practicing planners. His research will explore why planners choose to play these roles, and how they use these approaches in solving problems they face in practice. Mark hopes his research will improve the effectiveness of planning consultants in their work with communities and organizations wishing to bring about desired change.
Marcel C. Acosta (MS 1986)  
Senior Vice President, Planning & Development  
Chicago Transit Authority (on leave, Boston, 9/10)  
Chicago, IL

W. Merritt Bussiere (MS 1988)  
Land Use Education Specialist  
UW Coop Ext, Green Bay  
Green Bay, WI

Stephen C. Butler (MS 1983)  
Director, Planning & Community Dev.  
City of SeaTac  
SeaTac, WA

Michelle Rae Casale (MS 1992)  
Illinois Dept of Transportation  
Div of Public Transportation  
Chicago, IL

Sabrina D. Charney (MS 1995)  
New York City Watershed Programs Manager  
Westchester County Dept of Planning  
White Plains, NY

Denise F. Church (MS 1983)  
Chief Executive, New Zealand Ministry for the Environment, Manata Mo Tē Taiao  
Wellington, New Zealand

Lisa Roden Clemens (MS 1980)  
Senior Public Affairs Counselor  
Cargill Inc  
Minneapolis, MN

Darren T. Fortney AICP (MS 1998)  
Project Manager/Transportation Planner  
Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc  
Madison, WI

Susan M. Fox (MS 1998)  
Director of Strategy & Business Development,  
Grant Thornton LLP  
Madison, WI

Rand W. Frahm AICP (MS 1982)  
Southern District Planning Manager  
Southwest Florida Water Management District  
Brooksville, FL

Hans-Jochen Gotzmann (MS 1968)  
Consultant  
United Nations World Food Program & United Nations Development Program  
Wellington, FL

George E. Hall (MS 1978)  
Director, Municipal Boundary Review  
Office of Land Information Services, Wisconsin Dept of Administration  
Madison, WI

Michael L. Hoffman (MS 1975, PhD 1984)  
Office Director  
Carter Center  
Albany

Kenshi Itaoka (MS 1992)  
Senior Researcher  
Research & Development  
Fuji Research Institute Corporation, Environment, Energy and Resources  
Tokyo, Japan

Francine B. Johnson (MS 1993)  
Transportation Consultant  
Sound Transit  
Seattle, WA

Leah K. Kalinosky (MS 1999)  
National Neighborhood Coalition, Neighborhoods, Regions & Smart Growth  
Washington, DC

John V. LaMotte AICP (MS 1980)  
Senior Principal  
The Lakota Group Inc  
Chicago, IL

Andrew B. Lewis (MS 1982)  
Professor, UW–Extension  
Learning Institute for Nonprofit Organizations  
Madison, WI

Michael J. Mathews (MS 1984)  
Director of Strategy & Business Development  
Madison, WI

Tyler R. Meyer AICP (MS 1995)  
MPO Planner, Greensboro Dept of Transportation  
Greensboro, NC

Catherine B. Swanson AICP (MS 1983)  
Development Director, City of Coral Gables  
Coral Gables, FL

Kevin R. Tyjeski AICP (MS 1984)  
Chief Planner, Growth Management Div  
City of Orlando  
Orlando, FL

Mark E. Vander Schaaf (MS 1985)  
GIS Coordinator, City of St Paul  
St Paul, MN

EXTENSION UPDATE:

Dave Marcouiller  
University outreach through UWEX Cooperative Extension programs is a primary responsibility of several faculty members in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. Programming is as varied as planning itself. The Department offers a broad array of Extension programs that address key issues in urban, rural, and regional planning throughout Wisconsin. Primary programs fall within the following categories:

**Planning Process**  
Institutional Arrangements  
Land Use Planning  
Application of Information Technology  
Impact Assessment  
Natural Resource Protection and Management  
Tourism and Outdoor Recreation

URPL Faculty who hold formal appointments with the University of Wisconsin Extension and their primary specialties include:

- Steve Born - water, energy and land resource planning
- Doug Jackson-Smith - agricultural technology, rural land use
- Jerry Kaufman - urban planning, planning ethics, conflict management
- Dave Marcouiller - natural resources, rural development, recreation planning
- Ben Niemann - GIS/LIS applications in planning
- Brian Ohm - land use law, environmental regulation, growth management

In addition, both Extension and URPL are proud to have Merritt Bussiere back within their ranks (see this month’s alumni interview with Merritt for more news on Merritt’s activities). Merritt now serves as a land use planning specialist stationed in Green Bay. His presence should certainly bolster Extension efforts in the land use planning arena. Welcome back, Merritt!

For more information on Extension programs in planning and specific planning outreach resources, please contact Pat Cantrell, UWEX Administrative Assistant at (608) 263-9704.
**RECENT DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS**


