



College of Design, Architecture, Art and Planning

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Dr. David J. Edelman, Eur Ing SIA/AICP
Professor and Director

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Dear Graduate,

The 2008 - 2009 academic year has brought continued progress to the School of Planning, with total enrollment in the BUP and MCP programs now totaling over 275 keeping the School's professional enrollment among the top four in North America. Moreover, both the BUP and MCP programs have been reaccredited by the Planning Accreditation Board, faculty members and students have been honored, the quality of students at all levels improved, exciting projects begun, diversity in enrollment extended and international initiatives continued. This letter briefly reports on some of these developments.

Faculty

The faculty of the School of Planning has seen a number of changes this year. First of all, Rainer vom Hofe was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor, which was warmly welcomed by the entire faculty. In the meantime, four faculty members, Assoc. Prof. Chris Auffrey, Assoc. Prof. Carla Chifos, Prof. Michael Romanos and Prof. Jan Fritz, are or have been on sabbatical at various times this year engaged in research projects that will produce scholarly publications in the near future. Assoc. Prof. Sam Sherrill has retired, and Assoc. Prof. Kiril Stanilov has returned to Europe as a Marie Curie Scholar at University College, London. Although we miss their contributions to the School, as well as their company, Assoc. Prof. Sherrill has agreed to continue teaching on a part-time basis as an adjunct. Their loss has been further mitigated by the fact that we have just hired a new land use faculty member to join us on September 1. Marisa Zapata will receive her PhD from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana this spring, and we all welcome her with great anticipation.

Our Senior Visiting Scholar, Dr. Philip Obermiller, continues his connection with the School, and he and Prof. Emeritus Tom Wagner continue their fruitful research on Urban Appalachia. Dr. Obermiller is editing a volume on urban and rural Appalachian health with Robert Ludke, is editing another book on the intellectual history of Appalachian studies with Chad Berry and writing a book chapter on the rise of the Appalachian movement in Cincinnati with University Prof. Emeritus Wagner, Katie Brown, Donna Jones and Michael Maloney. Visiting Scholar Prof. Tony Arnold, the Boehl Chair in Property and Land Use at the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law of the University of Louisville, has been with us since the summer and will remain the entire 2008 – 2009 academic year. He is studying the nature of discretionary land use decision making to promote more ecologically sustainable and socially just land use decisions and practices.

A major development in the School and College has been the donation of two million dollars by Sharon and James Weinel to endow the Terence M. Fruth/Gemini Chair of Signage Design and Community Planning, the first privately endowed chair in the history of DAAP. This, along with a similarly endowed chair in the College of Business, will enable the University of Cincinnati to become the leading center of scholarship and teaching in the field of environmental communication nationwide. Among the activities of the Chair holder will be developing and teaching courses in a new Certificate in Environmental Communication, embarking on research activity and publication on signage issues, testing a new model signage code and conducting seminars to bring together planners, architects, designers, marketers, businessmen, politicians and the signage industry to advance understanding among all the parties involved in signage. It is anticipated that the Chair will be filled in the 2009-2010 academic year, but the School has already begun related activities this Winter Quarter.



School of Planning faculty members have continued to be very productive over the past twelve months, and what follows is just a sampling of their activities. Prof. Xinhao Wang and Assoc. Prof. vom Hofe are working on a new book on statistical methods for planners as a successor to their Research Methods in Urban and Regional Planning, the first new planning methods text in over twenty years. In addition, Prof. Wang published an article in Geography Research Forum with Prof. David Varady and doctoral student Jay Mittal. He also continued work on a project to create a framework for visual landscape assessment in planning for sustainable development with Assoc. Prof. Menelaos Triantafyllou and PhD student Michael Pateman, while Prof. Varady continues as book review editor of the Journal of Urban Affairs. Assoc. Prof. vom Hofe has been working on the development of the “OKI Fiscal Impact Analysis Model” with Assoc. Prof. Chris Auffrey and MCP alumnae Larisa Sims and Della Rucker, while also continuing work on an industrial cluster project with doctoral student Oana Mihaescu. Furthermore, he continues to serve on the Cincinnati Planning Commission. Assoc. Prof. Mahyar Arefi has completed an invited paper for UN-HABITAT and is writing a paper on sense of place in Istanbul, while Assoc. Prof. Auffrey is writing a book on sustainable development. He also finalized work on a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded research project investigating the features of public parks and playgrounds that are related to active physical activity with doctoral student Sameer Sharma. Dean Emeritus Jay Chatterjee serves on the National Recovery Advisory Board in New Orleans and is President of both the Architectural Foundation and the Seasongood Foundation for Good Government in Cincinnati, while Assoc. Prof. Emeritus Sam Sherrill’s book, Harvesting Urban Timber is in its third printing. He is also working with a colleague from the USDA Forest Service on a new book on the processing of wood from urban trees, while giving frequent presentations of the uses of urban trees nationwide. Adj. Assoc. Prof. Terry Grundy coordinated the work of a panel of well-known social researchers to bring out the third edition of The State of the Community, the preeminent community indicators report sponsored by United Way of Greater Cincinnati. This report is, among its many uses, the indicator set that is used by Agenda 360, the region’s comprehensive revitalization strategy. Prof. Michael Romanos and five doctoral students also completed the project RETUL: Revenue Enhancement through Underutilized Land Redevelopment.

Prof. David Edelman became an editorial board member of the Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship, wrote several book reviews this year, presented five conference papers and completed his collaboration with Assoc. Prof. Triantafyllou and Visiting Scholar Shuji Zhang on a project to design a new town adjacent to the city of Anyang, China. Two quarters of research involving 2 MCP and one PhD student followed by an interdisciplinary studio of BUP, MCP and MArch students have produced a path breaking conceptual plan for urban development in this country. Two academic papers on the project are under preparation, and two conference papers have been presented. Prof. Edelman also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Planning Conference and of Citizens for Civic Renewal, and he is a member of the United Way Research Council, as is Adjunct Assoc. Prof. Terry Grundy and several alumni, which published the second edition of The State of the Community: A Report on the Socio-Economic Health of the Greater Cincinnati Region. Assoc. Prof. Carla Chifos and Prof. Jan Fritz have each been awarded UC Faculty Development Council Research Grants this year, and Assoc. Prof. Chifos published a book review in the Journal of Urban Affairs, was awarded a U.S. Speaker and Specialist Grant to travel to Brazil and deliver the keynote address at a major conference on “How Urban Planning Can Mitigate the Effects of Global Warming in Cities.” Prof. Fritz also received the 2008 DAAP Annual Award for Outstanding Research and Creative Work. Springer published International Clinical Sociology, which she edited, and the International Review of Sociology published her article entitled “Improving Special Education Mediation.” In addition, Prof. Fritz continues to serve as Vice President for Finance and Membership of the International Sociological Association (ISA) and represents the ISA at the United Nations. She is also a mediator for the Kentucky Department of Education and a facilitator for the Citizens’ Health Care Working Group, created by the US Congress.

Assoc. Prof. Johanna Looye continues to lead two highly successful US Peace Corps related MCP programs, one for prospective volunteers and one for returned ones, and the number of participants who have participated in the programs continues at a high level. She also received her second grant (\$210,000) from the US Department of Education to develop exchanges among the University of Florida, UC and the Federal Universities of Rio de Janeiro and Paraná. The focus is on sustainable urbanism. In addition, Assoc. Prof. Looye was elected chair of the Steering Committee of the World Planning Schools Conference to be held in 2011, and she presented work from her December visit to China at two conferences. Asst. Prof. Frank Russell continues to provide leadership to the innovative Niehoff Urban Studio, a joint project of the School of Planning and the School of Architecture and Interior Design devoted to Cincinnati’s urban problems, and led a three week summer urban design studio in Sardinia. Finally, Prof. Triantafyllou continues to serve effectively as the SOP Studio Coordinator and has generated over \$375,000 in sponsored studios and related projects.

Programs and Students

The School of Planning has continued to have a significant international composition, not only in terms of its faculty, which comes from six different countries, but also in terms of its full-time graduate students, of whom 30% of the 88 (77 MCP and 11 PhD) are from overseas (thirteen countries represented). This trend of significant international enrollment is expected to continue. Meanwhile, the five-year, studio-based BUP program remains arguably the best in the country as the only one with required co-op, a minimum of six studios and a thesis. The four-year BS in Urban Studies continues as a sound pre-professional program for those preparing for graduate school in one of the urban or civic service professions. The number of transfer students has also increased in both undergraduate programs.

Under the leadership of Assoc. Prof. Triantafillou, the School has been able to implement a policy of charging clients for most studio work at both the undergraduate and graduate levels on a consistent basis. While not competing with professional planners in the region, the funds generated are able to support a number of MCP students as well as studios for underserved communities. Clients such as Anyang City in China, real estate developers in Cincinnati, Otterbein Homes, the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, the First Suburbs Consortium, Anderson Township, Delhi Township, Union Township, College Hill and the Mayor's Office of the City of Cincinnati are some of the users of faculty and student expertise under this program in the last three years.

Several new programs are being tested. The first is a joint MCP/MS Arch program (2 students) and the second an MCP/MArch program (2 students). Prof. Edelman is working on these. The other programs are both with the Department of Women's Studies. They include a BS Urban Studies/BA Women's Studies joint degree program, which has been finalized and accepted its first students, and a joint MCP/MA Women's Studies program still under development. Prof. Fritz, Assoc. Prof. Looye, Assoc. Prof. Auffrey, Assoc. Prof. Arefi and Prof. Edelman have worked at various points on this. Assoc. Prof. Amy Lind (with a PhD in Planning from Cornell) is the lead person in the Department of Women's Studies on this, and is an affiliated faculty member in SOP.

In addition, the School held its second Graduate Student Open House last January, which was attended by more than twenty MCP students and their parents and several prospective PhD students. Given the feedback of the participants from the first two years, this highly successful event is expected to become an annual occurrence at the School.

Undergraduate Education

The number of BUP freshman enrolling this year was 38 (including transfers), the sixth year in a row of 35+ entering students. The BSUS program has also expanded so that 28 are now enrolled. Thus, enrollment in the BUP program has risen from 66 to 169 in four years, while that for urban studies has increased from 6 to 28 in the same time period.

MCP Education

The graduate recruitment outlook continues to be quite good. The applicant pool continues both to grow and improve, with a large number of states (13) represented among those Americans enrolled. Maintaining good advertising materials and a modern website with extensive information help significantly, as do the last two Planetizen rankings of the MCP program as among the top five in the Midwest and top twenty in North America. In addition, the School has continued to prepare requests for competitive DAAP Graduate Assistantships (GA's) and for external student funding. Students have been successful this year in obtaining internships from OKI (1), TANK (1) the University Architect (1), the META University Project (1), the Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation or 3CDC (1), the Community Design and Development Center/Niehoff Urban Studio (3), the Tilda Fund (2), the Seasongood Foundation (1), DAAP (4), Center for Great Neighborhoods (1), Working in Neighborhoods (2), Smart Money (1), OTR Housing (1), St. Bernard CIC (1), Agenda 360 of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber (1), 3CDC (1), Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission (1), Center East Riverfront Project (3), Anyang Project (3), Cincinnati's Department of Community Development and Planning (2), the Signage Foundation (1), GISSA (1), ECER (1), GIS Dynamics (1), Cincinnati Human Relations Committee (1), UC Facilities Management (1), C&M Communities (1), Fat City Properties (1), Brazil FIPSE Grant (1), Soap & Detergent Association project (1), Center for Community Engagement (1) and the Cincinnati Area Geographic Information Systems (6). As a result, the ten assigned graduate school GA's were leveraged into an additional thirty-seven assignments worth over \$500,000. Three MCP students have also received full funding through UC's prestigious Yates Fellowships.

Doctoral Education

The School's PhD program in Regional Development Planning is entering its sixth year and now has eleven students: three Americans, three Indians, one German, one Romanian, one Bahamian, one Kenyan and one Chinese. The first two students, Sameer Sharma and Diana Mitsova-Boneva, have graduated and are employed in India's Senior Executive Service and as an Assistant Professor of Planning at Florida Atlantic University respectively. Three are completing their dissertations and another two are currently completing their comprehensive exams. All eleven are funded as well: five from the Graduate School, one from CAGIS, one from the Health Alliance, one from the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and the School of Planning, one from the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission, the City of Silverton and the School of Planning, and two from DAAP and the School.

Happily, no students left the program this year other than the two who graduated. The program size is now large enough to add significant research strength to the School without compromising the SOP's emphasis on professional preparation. It is a challenging and exciting new chapter in the history of the School, and we encourage alumni who are interested or who can suggest potential candidates to contact the director of the program, Prof. Wang.

Student Achievements

Furthermore, students have had a number of achievements this year worth mentioning. One graduating BUP student, Cynthia McCoy, whose senior project won the Directors' Choice Award for urban planning at DAAPWorks last year, is serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Bulgaria. Other BUP graduates completed their Peace Corps service this year. They are Alan Marrero (Romania) and Adam Rosenberg (Lesotho). Four MCP students in the Peace Corps International sandwich program are also currently serving abroad. Chris Kline is in Romania, Chris Colizza is in Ethiopia, Jessica Warning is in Cameroon and Mona Almabayyed is in Guatemala. Mitchell Sipus, an MCP/MS Arch graduate this year, is now a Fulbright Scholar in Cairo, Egypt, where MCP student Orsolya Toth completed her summer internship.

In addition, three students, PhD students Oana Mihaescu and Jay Mittal, and BUP student Christina Scarpitti, published book reviews in the Journal of Urban Affairs, while Oana also wrote three articles for the Encyclopedia of Research Design and presented a conference paper at the ACSP Conference in Milwaukee. MCP student Geoff Milz presented a paper at the Environmental Design Research Association Conference, Heather Sturgill, another MCP student, had an article appear in Ultimate Home Design, whose publisher is a BUP alumnus, MCP student Cheryl Crowell presented a paper at the Erasing Boundaries Symposium, MCP student Kiran Avadhanula was awarded a UC University Research Council Summer Graduate Student Research Fellowship and MCP student David Emery was selected to participate in the Canadian Triumvirate.

Doctoral student Michael Pateman presented a paper at Geomatics 2008 at Guangzhou, China, MCP student Celeste Yoder completed a prestigious summer internship with the United Nations Development program, Brandy McQueary, another MCP student, published an article in the Cincinnati Herald, while MCP student Juliana Zanotto presented a paper at the 58th Annual Center for Latin American Studies Conference and MCP student Lann Brumlik won third place in the national NASA competition "The Moon: Back to the Future" and presented a paper at the International Conference on Learning on the SeaOrbiter project.

In addition, numerous undergraduate and graduate students in four different programs run by Assoc. Prof. Looye, Asst. Prof. Russell and Prof. Edelman have received UC International Globalization Grants to Italy, Turkey, Belgium and the Netherlands. Also of note is the fact that over half of BUP co-ops this past quarter were with private sector employers, and a like number were out of state placements. We are indeed proud of all these students.

Globalization

Current and incoming students continue to be exposed to new opportunities. Prof. Romanos with Assoc. Prof. Chifos continue to offer the Summer Field School in Sustainable Development. This year the program is planned for Recife, Brazil, where they will spend eight weeks investigating physical development, economic development, environmental degradation and tourism decline for the city. After intensive fieldwork, the team will produce an extensive report. They will also offer a Spring Break program to Greece this year.

Additionally, undergraduates have been attending the University of Amsterdam for the fall quarter for nine consecutive years, with Jeremy Fallica going this year, while another undergraduate student, Genevieve Rainsberger, just returned from a quarter at Istanbul Technical University. An MCP student, Sarah Drees, spent the Autumn Quarter in Brussels at the Sint-Lucas Hogeschool voor Wetenschap & Kunst. In exchange, two students

from that university were enrolled at UC for the quarter, and the best BUP student from ITU each year receives a graduate fellowship from SOP. Moreover, Prof. Wang continues to assist Shandong University in China in initiating a modern Master's program in planning, as well as develop executive training courses for Chinese planners.

In addition, Prof. Edelman has developed a new program for design-oriented graduate students at the Universitario Positivo in Curitiba, Brazil, which will begin in September 2009, while Asst. Prof. Russell continues to work with the University of Sassari in Sardinia, Italy. This has included the summer studio for DAAP's planning, architecture and interior design students in Italy mentioned previously.

Other developments are that while Assoc. Prof. Looye's FIPSE grant from the US Department of Education and the European Union has come to an end, the School's graduate exchange program in planning and urban design continues with the Technical University of Eindhoven and the Sint-Lucas Hogeschool voor Wetenschap & Kunst in Brussels and Ghent. This enables one or two MCP students per year to study at each of the European universities, and the School receives a student from each European school in return. One Belgian exchange student from several years ago, Frederik Spittaël, returned to Cincinnati, graduated from the MCP program and now works for Proctor and Gamble in Brussels. (Another former MCP student, Yoshi Sakano, works for P&G in Kobe, Japan). A new development is that Assoc. Prof. Looye has secured a new FIPSE grant with the University of Florida to exchange several BUP and MCP students with several Brazilian universities each year.

As was mentioned briefly previously, Assoc. Prof. Looye has two other international projects. First, the U.S. Peace Corps has recognized the School as part of its Master's International Program since 2003. MCP students in the international development planning specialization "sandwich" their two years of Peace Corps service between the first and last years of their Master's program. In addition, the School has hosted a Peace Corps Fellows program since early in 2004. In this program, Returned Peace Corps Volunteers are given community assignments to work with Cincinnati's underserved populations and take advantage of their experience while they pursue the MCP. Students who have graduated from or are in this program have served in Bulgaria, Nicaragua, Gambia, Guinea, Mongolia, Bangladesh, Mauritania, Samoa, Kazakhstan and the Ukraine. The focus of the School's efforts is "Bringing the Peace Corps Home." Of note as well is that both Assoc. Prof. Auffrey (Paraguay) and Prof. Edelman (Liberia) have served in the Peace Corps.

SOP alumni who have served in the Peace Corps are encouraged to contact Assoc. Prof. Looye. She has created a listserv to help link the campus Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (RPCV) community with RPCV's out in the field and would also like to include SOP alumni who are RPCV's. Additionally, RPCV's who are working with underserved populations and have the funds to support a Peace Corps Fellow or Master's International intern are encouraged to contact her about the possibility of collaboration with the SOP Peace Corps Fellows/Master's International programs.

Thus, the faculty of the School of Planning remains the most internationally active in DAAP and among the most active at UC. Over the past year, thirteen of the sixteen School of Planning faculty members have been abroad professionally in countries as diverse as Greece, United Kingdom, Finland, the Netherlands, Italy, France, Switzerland, Bulgaria, China and Brazil, Turkey and Romania.

Domestic and Local Efforts

Coordinated by a BUP grad for the Ohio Planning Conference (OPC), the School participates in a day-long planning charrette on the occasion of World Town Planning Day each year. The program has been so successful that it has become a regular SOP event. Students, planning professionals and residents participate in a program for the betterment of a different community in the region each year. Miami University planning students also participate. This year the program was held in Goshen.

Finally, in recognition of the outstanding record School of Planning students have compiled over the years as co-ops and interns, the Hamilton County Regional Planning Commission and CAGIS continue their contracts with the School to provide students to assist in their offices on a regular basis.

Alumni Involvement

In order to strengthen ties with its alumni, the School of Planning has developed an alumni page for our website. There are also thumbnail sketches of a few prominent alumni, to which we would like to add, on that page. In order to keep you up to date, the School needs the e-mail addresses of all its alumni to create an updated database and

listserv. This letter, for example, appears on the website and has also been sent electronically for the seventh consecutive year. If you wish to be added to our database, please send an e-mail to me at edelman@ucmail.uc.edu. We will then add you to the alumni email list and send you a welcome message. In the meantime, the School is always happy to hear from its graduates, and is especially interested in potential students they might recommend. We encourage you to look at our website at <http://daap.uc.edu/planning/> to find out what is happening in Cincinnati. We update it regularly and welcome your suggestions for its improvement.

With best wishes for a happy, healthy, peaceful and prosperous 2009,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. J. Edelman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "D. J." being more prominent and stylized than the last name "Edelman".

David J. Edelman, PhD