It’s time again. Time to get those assistantships for spring fired up. Time to finish that research. Time to get crackin’ on that weeks-old term paper. Time to get that resume updated. Time to write that UPwords article I’ve been meaning to write for two months now. Doh! Time got the best of me again. Oh well, there’s always next month, or next year... You can bide your time for the article—just don’t hold your breath.

A bit of trivia—UPwords has returned for consecutive months for the first time since 1996, the first year of the “new” SPO newsletter. We’re able to do this because of you, our eager contributors. Among November’s submitters are four undergraduates: Norene Hough, Rob Kalnitz, Peter Amb erg, and Jodie Vice. Thank you for taking some time to share your thoughts with us and keeping those lines of communication open.

This issue might possibly be our last as editors. We hope you like the new format and especially hope that UPwords will continue to be a vital and unique part of SPO. Of course, your comments are welcome... anytime. Elections are coming up next week and after Thanksgiving. If you’ll be a returning student in the fall, please consider one of the many positions opening up. If you’re not returning, nominate some able and willing persons, whether they think they have time or not. Those nominations are due in Jenny’s box by Friday, November 20.

Finally, I failed to mention in the last issue that the cover photo was a self-portrait provided by Brian Dell, a man who will rediscover time when he graduates next month with a dual degree in architecture and planning. You could say he has worked overtime. Our cover art this month was submitted by Jenny Baumgartner. A little “twisted,” but it just goes to show what you can accomplish when you waste your time.
APA-GIS: What's Planning in Peoria?

by Norene Hough  The November 6 meeting of the APA–Greater Illinois Section was held in Peoria and focused on the changes made in the Peoria community over the last five years. Unlike other conferences, which target one subject area, this meeting reviewed the planning process in Peoria. From the choice of location, design of the day’s schedule, and topics covered, this was clearly an effort to show the 70-plus planners from around Illinois that Peoria has been changing. Illinois Representative Ricca Slone welcomed the group to the new “Gateway Building,” and spoke on the importance of maintaining the balance between urban and rural areas. Afterward, there were four sessions covering revitalization of neighborhoods, growth management, riverfront development, and landscaping/green development. These sessions were followed by a smashing lunch and musical presentation of “Clue” in a restored shipping warehouse, and a bus tour of the entire metropolitan area.

Peoria has been working hard to improve its image and to revitalize and stimulate its economy. The first session on neighborhood revitalization focused on the improvement of neighborhoods through private-public partnerships and on the efforts that have been undertaken to develop stronger neighborhood communities. Along with new ordinances, increased staff, clear differentiation of functions, and a comprehensive neighborhood plan, the city is working toward improving the look and layout of the older gorgeous Victorian districts with the support of the United Way. Growth management was discussed from both the City and development perspectives.

The city is currently trying to maintain and direct its growth through the extension of the sewer system. With housing demand increasing, and the city expanding into the unincorporated county, the cooperation of the city and county boards has led to a system of growth management. The riverfront development is an ongoing Peoria project to revitalize and beautify the city’s connection to the river. This is a multi-step process led by civic, business, and personal interests. In addition to the Gateway Building and new restaurant landing marines, the City intends to add a Rec-Plex in conjunction with the hospital and open up new office, commercial, and retail space. The most exciting and rewarding project has been an outdoor amphitheater that this summer alone attracted 40,000 new patrons to the water. The revitalization of old warehouses, a new entertainment district, and a shopping corridor are all in the works. The landscaping/green development session focused on the requirements of the city for new development. The system is based on points, which encourages preservation of current foliage and demands that the developers pay any costs of environmental impact.

Overall, the day was full of information on how to gain money, participation, and change in cities across the state. While far from being the most professionally presented conference, this set-up allowed for a comfortable atmosphere, exchange of information, and socialization.

**UPwords**

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Editors-at-large
Rajeev Thakur
Stephen Swanton

Copy Editor
Keecia L. James

Contributors
Peter Amberg
Norene Hough
Keecia L. James
Rob Kalnitz
Sarah Miller
Brian O’Malley
Jodie Vice

UPwords
Nov 1998
Upper Midwest APA: Recapturing Community

by Sarah Miller  The Upper Midwest APA Conference was held at the Crowne Plaza Five Seasons Hotel in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on October 28-30, 1998. The conference featured breakout sessions centered around four themes: rediscovering community through neighborhoods; recapturing community through reclamation and reuse; rethinking community through new design; and practitioner issues. In addition, participants were treated to luncheons with speakers such as Elizabeth, NJ mayor Chris Bollwage, a reception at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, and a dinner banquet.

Given my interest in brownfields, I attended sessions in the "Recapturing Community through Reclamation and Reuse" track. This track featured a variety of government and private-practice speakers on topics such as case studies of brownfield projects and financing strategies for brownfield redevelopment. Overall, I was very impressed with the quality of the presentations and preparedness of the speakers. Unfortunately, several of the sessions that were intended to serve as panel discussions instead only had one speaker. Luckily, the speakers that were present tended to be very good and provided a lot of useful information.

I believe that conference attendance was lower than usual for this annual event. This was probably based on a variety of factors, including late distribution of the conference registration materials and the Cedar Rapids location. Very few attendees came over from Illinois (and Illinois was also under-represented in the choices of speakers). However, given the small conference size, it was very easy to ask questions and speak to the presenters as well as other attendees. I learned a lot during the sessions and also had a great time socializing with the planners from the City of Champaign and others I met at the conference. Downtown Cedar Rapids is a pleasant place and it's hard to go wrong with a bunch of happy planners in a bar that offers over 100 types of beer from all over the world.

Speakers Speak

Frank So Visits DURP

If you thought The Practice of Local Government Planning author Frank So had passed away, you would have been in for a shock last Thursday.

The Brown Bag noontime discussion series was honored to present American Planning Association executive director Frank So in an informal question-and-answer session. Though he admitted that the APA's membership is low compared to other professional organizations, he cited some of the impacts it is creating around the nation. So stressed that a major objective of the APA is to "tell the planning story" to ordinary citizens, potential partner groups, even members of Congress. In particular, planners should strive to inform these groups how the field can help solve specific problems, such as traffic congestion and point-source pollution.

So said students seeking a career in planning could improve on their ability to write, speak, and think clearly. Writing effective reports is one of the planner's most critical skills. Young planners should also learn how to get their message across to different kinds of groups, whether they be city boards, clubs, or neighborhood organizations.

Recently, So was introduced to a young planner who was a devotee of his "green Bible." Knowing how long ago the book had been published, she told him she didn't realize he was still living.

Next week's Brown Bag discussion will feature Jason Uyeda, a representative from EDAW, a global planning, landscape architecture, urban design, and resource management firm. The discussion will be held in Buell Room 223, also at noon.
Success in planning?

by Brian O’Malley  Planners are highly trained problem solvers, right? Well, do you ever wonder why, if planners specialize in foreseeing trends and solving problems, they don’t become the decision-makers? Instead of advising elected officials, why don’t they run for office themselves?

Armed with all the wisdom of the field, a planner as decision-maker could be a modern day philosopher-king or -queen, right? Well, at least one planner decided to throw his hat in the ring for last week’s elections. Art Skolnik ran to represent Washington State’s fifth district in the state legislature.

He claimed that his experience as a planner made him the best candidate to address the current issues concerning the voters. In his statement in the voters’ pamphlet, he billed himself this way: "Traffic jams define us. . . . Every time you get stuck in traffic, remember that there isn’t one member of the legislature who’s a transportation planner. And there could be." On November 3, fifth district voters said, "No thanks."

Maybe planners make bad politicians. Now, the case may be that planners just don’t run for office very often. Nevertheless, I imagine most planners are drawn to the profession because they hope to improve society, solve its problems, foster wise decision making, or something of the like. Then, what can planners learn from a week that saw a pro wrestler elected Governor and an NFL hall-of-fame wide-receiver vying for leadership of the U.S. House of Representatives, while one of their own failed to win a seat in a state legislature? Do the American people prefer athletes (and actors!) over planners to make the tough decisions? Signs point to "yes."

Well, what have they got that we haven’t got? Maybe it is easier to believe in them. Their world was black and white before they entered politics. It was very easy to measure successes. The athletes that enter politics seem to be the ones that are highly successful. We don’t have to ask, “Well, which basket was he shooting at?” when someone tells us that Bill Bradley used to average x points per game. The goal on a basketball court is clear. By contrast, planners perform in murky arenas. It would be hard to ascertain how successful Art Skolnik was in his career prior to running for office.

In fact, planners often lack a clear sense of what, in their work, qualifies as success. It’s as if, instead of just one basket to shoot for, the planning arena has a few baskets (one for equity, one for efficiency, one for the environment, . . .) plus a judge for artistic merit.

And, of course, the basketballs are scarce, the baskets move, and the lights are out. Keeping score is impossible. The fact that it is far more like real-world challenges than a simple game does not seem to impress the electorate. A candidate with a proven track record of success in any field seems to inspire more confidence than a candidate with pertinent experience but no clear measure of performance.

Planning has no clear measure of performance.

That’s a daunting message, isn’t it? No matter how hard you try, you won’t know if you’re succeeding. But we didn’t have to think about the elections to discover that fact. When I went home after my first semester of planning courses, that was the only way I could sum up what I had learned. “I’m not sure what planners do, but I’m pretty sure that no one agrees on how to tell whether they do it well,” I might have said.

So, if the core courses taught us that good planning can’t easily be measured, what are we to learn from the elections? Well, the Republican party read between the lines to hear the voice of the people saying, “Change your ways.” Although planners, Art Skolniks aside, generally aren’t running for office, most do seek to work in the interest of their society. If you read way down in between the lines of the election results, the voters have said something to the planners, too. I think that we planners should hear the voice of the people saying, “Figure out how to tell if you’re doing a good job.”
Thinking About Getting the Heck Out of C-U? (And I don't mean for break.)

by Rob Kalnitz

Admit it—sometimes you just gotta get out of town. This island in the corn just cannot hold your interest for another second. But what to do? Where to go? Well, I've got the answer... Europe! Many, if not most of you are aware that the department has an exchange program with the University of Sheffield in the UK. Perhaps you've considered the possibility of taking a semester or even a year abroad, but aren't sure whether or not you should really do it. You ask yourself: How much is this going to cost? Will I graduate on time? How can I leave all my friends? Well, from the experience that I had spending last year in Sheffield, my only advice is to stop considering and just go!

To begin with, when is it going to be easier to just pack up and schlep off to another continent for a few months or a year? When you've got a job? When you're hitched? Nope—for a lot of us it might be now or never. And it really is pretty easy, too. For the departmental exchange program with Sheffield, the only extra cost that you pay to the university is a program fee of $500 and Range IV Tuition. Otherwise, it's the same cost as attending university here. Also, our department is one of the best to work with on transferring your credit back to the U of I. The horror stories that you might have heard from other students in other departments just don't occur around here. You will still graduate on time. I have a whole year of transfer credit, and I could have graduated in 3½ years if I wasn't sticking around here due to a gigantic fear of the real world.

That's all fine and good, but I suppose you might be wondering about Sheffield and the university there. Sheffield is located in South Yorkshire, in the Midlands about 2½ hours north of London. It's an old city that has always been synonymous with steel, but it really came into its own in the last century during the industrial revolution. Thus, it is quite Victorian in character. The population is about 450,000, so it is a bit bigger than C-U. Which is great, because it means that there is much more to do there than there is here. I suppose that is a bit disingenuous, as it doesn't matter what else there is to do; the only thing you are going to do there is go to the pub. Good thing there are so many of them. I think at the turn of the century, there were 1500 pubs within a ½ mile radius of the town center! My "local" was Ye Old Grindstone, and was exactly 36 seconds away from my front door. If we didn't feel like the Grindstone, the South Seas was just two minutes away. If not the South Seas, the Fox and Duck... You get the idea. The student union itself had two bars.

As far as the actual university is concerned, there are a few things to be prepared for. The town planning department (it's town planning over there, not urban planning) is pretty small, with about thirty students in each graduating class. They are on a strict, set course of study over there, so they all take the same classes together. I mean all of them, there are no electives outside the department. The same will go for you while you're there. Some of the best classes offered are those that deal with comparative planning and the European Union. They also have a really good class on planning theory, ethics and values. The classes themselves meet less often then here. Plan on only being in class 8-12 hours a week. Last semester, I had Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays off! Also, there will be no exams. It's all project work, or one big paper at the end of term. It gets real stressful at the end, but it's a system made for procrastinators like you and me. The final issue is grades. The lecturers in England seem to loath giving high grades, so don't expect grade inflation. You can probably get a B fairly easily, but it will be tough going to reach an A. So the upshot is less work but lower grades, all while still learning a lot. Fair trade, I suppose.

But now let's get to the real reason why I went, and why you ought to go... travel. Living in England, you are a stone's throw away from continental Europe, Asia, and even Africa. You can easily travel before you get there or after your studies are over, but if you stay the whole year you will have both a month at Christmas and a month over Easter to travel. That's what I did. I went everywhere: three weeks in Ireland; London; Bath; York; Nottingham; Munich; Rome (Christmas Eve Mass at St. Peter's... I'm Jewish, but still very, very cool); Florence; Paris (for New Year's Eve, under the Arc de Triomphe); Barcelona; Madrid; Tunis (in Africa, for a whole week); Istanbul (went to Asia... for lunch); Athens; Prague; Budapest; Vienna; Berlin; Krakow; Zurich... continued...

Out of C-U? (And I don't mean for break.)

by Rob Kalnitz

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As you can imagine, I had a great time. Whether it was drinking at the greatest beer hall in the world in Munich (Hofbrauhaus), hiking in the Swiss Alps, eating olives under the Acropolis in Athens, standing in front of Ayia Sofia (the most beautiful mosque in the world—it's only rival, the Blue Mosque, is across the street!), or the sixth hour at the Louvre in Paris (Once you hit that point, leave, even though you haven't seen it all. The seventh hour sucks, trust me), it was all completely unbelievable.

And the best part about all this is that you can go, too. There should be no reason not to, and there are so many why you should. If you are at all interested, feel free to email me at kalnitz@uiuc.edu with any questions. For more “official” information, talk to Professor Forrest, as he coordinates the Sheffield exchange program. Finally, go check out the Study Abroad Office. They have tons of useful information and are staffed by returnees who are always ready to help. On Fridays from 1-4 in the afternoon, that office has walk-in hours where you can talk to Brian Souders, coordinator for all programs in the UK. You could also call and make an appointment with him for some other time. The Study Abroad Office telephone number is 333-6168 and it is located at 115 International Studies Building, 910 S. Fifth, across from Illini Tower.

You've got until March 1, 1999 to get your application in for next fall or academic year, but don't wait. The deadline will be here sooner than you think, and you know you want to go ....

Planning in the Real World

by Peter Amberg

Theories, laws, and lectures—chock-full of valuable information, but where does it all fit in the “real world”? No, I’m not referring to MTV’s “The Real World,” but rather, the world of employment. This summer I had the opportunity to work at the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission. It was a rewarding experience to see how the planning process evolves in real situations.

The Champaign Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) serves seven counties in East Central Illinois: Champaign, Dewitt, Douglas, Ford, Iroquois, Piatt and Vermilion County. During the internship, I worked in the Community Development and Economic Development Departments. I worked on Community Development projects for the City of Urbana and the Village of Villa Grove. The Urbana project was for the Scottswood area on the northeast corner of town. Three concerns citizens had were 1) flooding and sanitary service, 2) safety, and 3) housing stock. I had the task of surveying, door to door, about 650 households to determine the area’s eligibility for grants. It was interesting to see the amount of preparation that goes into applying for grants. There is an extensive set of forms and a variety of deadlines planners must meet. Right now, the Scottswood area has decided to address flooding concerns first by applying for a grant in the spring.

The other community development project I worked on was for the Village of Villa Grove. Located just south of Urbana, Villa Grove sits on the Embarras River. Recently, sewer and flooding problems have made for an unpleasant situation in the community. The CCRPC completed another survey in the area to once again qualify for a grant. This grant would go towards building a better sewer plant as well as making infrastructure improvements.

By going out into the community, I gained some experience speaking with the public regarding their concerns. It was interesting to see how people reacted with hesitation and distrust once they knew you worked for the government. On the other hand, a gentleman was kind enough to share some of his war stories with me and gave me a short story on his experiences. On a livelier note, I was glad I wore my running shoes when some loose dogs chased me down a couple of blocks. Besides running shoes, I found maps very helpful to plan my route each day to avoid delays and walking aimlessly in circles. All in all, conducting surveys was a nice respite from the office and a great way to stay fit.
Economic development was my other assignment at the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission. Even though all seven counties in the East Central Illinois Economic Development District have not agreed to take part in our efforts, my research included the entire area. Being included in the District is a matter of choice for each county. Once the county is included, grants and government funding will be used to boost their economies through various programs and businesses.

The main goal of my project was to research data and provide some preliminary analysis. I started out a little unsure of where my research would take me, but I ended up gaining experience using the Internet and governmental agencies. From typing to talking with economic development officials, my project began to take shape. One of the most important lessons I learned was to ask lots of questions until you fully understand what's going on. Otherwise, you may end up doing some guesswork rather than productive work.

After concluding my research, I completed an analysis of the socio-economic status of each county and the area as a whole. I found that dealing with large amounts of data could be challenging. By crunching the numbers and trying to use data effectively in reports, I used some computer programs I had not used before. Urban Planning 212 has included many of the graphics and written communication skills I used. I only wish I had taken the course before the internship. However, having to learn some new computer programs will probably be a necessary part of all our careers.

Besides my specific projects and tasks, the overall experience of working in an office was interesting. The most obvious change from school to office is the hours. No more sleeping until your 10:00 class, or rolling out of bed ten minutes before it starts. It really wasn't that bad adjusting for the summer, but I think school definitely offers a more leisurely pace. Another new aspect of working in an office all day was discovering inter-office politics. I was reminded of the Dilbert cartoons when people started to wonder who would get some of the newly vacant offices with a window, as opposed to a cozy cubicle. Then there was the computer politicking—who would get a new monitor, or perhaps a Pentium II.

Learning how to use the new office copy machine was another one of my favorite activities. Don't worry. I recycled all of my mistakes, and there were quite a few. One of my favorite parts of working in an office was lunch hour. It was nice to have a full hour break as opposed to having a class during lunchtime or trying to finish some homework. Finally, at the end of the day I enjoyed leaving all of my work at the office, a luxury that schoolwork doesn't deliver.

One thing an internship definitely does deliver is a great resume-builder. So, if you have the chance to pick one up, in the words of Ferris Bueller: "I highly recommend it."

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**book review**

**A Call For Justice**

*Urban Planning and the African-American Community: In The Shadows*


*by Keecia L. James* Can urban planners use technical expertise to implement social equity in disenfranchised communities? And if so, should they? Some planning scholars argue that this feat is both possible and necessary. The co-editors urge the profession to actively adopt and enforce polices that help rather than hinder disenfranchised communities.

June Manning Thomas and Marsha Ritzdorf are co-editors of the book entitled, *Urban Planning and the African-American Community: In The Shadows*, a compilation of thought-provoking essays by planning scholars and professionals that focuses on the historical, contemporary, and future role of urban planning in African-American communities. Although limited in its scope, the book serves as a rich supplement to the limited amount of planning literature that summons the fusion of social and technical aspects of planning.

continued...
The book's introduction outlines one of many reasons for making this book. In the preface, Thomas argues that race should not be the only factor in planning education; however, she posits that current planning schools do very little to address the issue at all. This void, she affirms, is a disservice to the many planners that will practice in the diverse work environment of the 21st century. Both editors maintain that urban planners must recognize the correlation between race, gender and class as it pertains to planning issues; ignorance of this symbiotic relationship has led to the perpetuation of social inequities the profession should contest, rather than enforce. Both editors champion the notion that urban planning can and should help eradicate the dismal conditions of the American poor and people of color.

The book is separated into five parts. Of these five, two are most engaging. Part Four, entitled, “Planning Education,” examines the role of planning schools at historically black institutions, and the arduous attempts of these schools to increase the representation of blacks in the profession.

Author, Siddhartha Sen, highlights Morgan State University’s attempts to increase the number of black urban planners. The University, boasting a planning tradition that dates back to the 1960s, had received grant funds that went toward the creation of their Urban Affairs Institute. Subsequent funds had been used to its urban affairs and planning programs at the college, and to call attention to urban decay and racial segregation. Morgan State had actively recruited inner-city black students that might not have gained admittance to majority schools, in the hope that they would use their planning expertise for community organizing. Although Morgan State experienced numerous funding and enrollment problems, its social approach to planning distinguishes it from other black and majority institutions. Although currently multi-racial, the university’s goals remain the same.

“African-American Initiatives and Responses,” another section of the book, lauds successful African-American planning efforts within communities like Birmingham, Alabama, among other places, to illustrate that neighborhoods can enact social change, even when devoid of professional planning expertise.

According to authors Charles E. Connerly and Bobby Wilson, black and white planning traditions in Alabama, beginning as far back as the 1930s, were “either apart from each other, or at odds with each other.” The merging of these traditions took place in 1974, when the two groups created a “citizen participation plan.” Although HUD played a role in the union of these two groups, this plan represented a triumph of African-American planning “because it placed significant responsibility for community planning” on both black and white citizens. Some maintain that minorities are not interested in community organizing to combat neighborhood issues; however, both Connerly and Wilson appear to disagree with this broad generalization. In the Birmingham, Alabama case, community involvement increased among both black and white residents when all participants felt they had a stake in the planning process.

Other interesting sections of the book include “Zoning and Real Estate,” a historical account of the establishment of exclusionary zoning laws and separatist public housing as a tool for social segregation. The chapter, “Urban Environmentalism and Race” is a remarkable description of African-American involvement in the environmental movement, demonstrating how blacks successfully formed coalitions to remove landfills and toxic agents out of their “backyard.”

The book contains a breadth of knowledge that concerns any planner interested in the traditional and current relationship between urban planners and African-American neighborhoods. The book allows current and future planners to evaluate past mistakes of the profession with the hope of eluding these errors in the future. The book does not address the role of planning in other disenfranchised communities; however, the narrow focus allows for a more profound analysis of the function of urban planning in black communities. Thanks to the contributions of June Manning Thomas and Marsha Ritzdorf, and other planning scholars, the people who are too often cast to the “shadows” of their own experience are rightfully placed in the light.
Knock, Knock - Oops!!

by Rajeev Thakur  The modern suburban house offers an embarrassment of entries. One can be flummoxed by the front being simply a garage door. As people buy bigger, better, faster, more—garage doors are replacing front doors and porches. You drive right into your garage, which now functions as a lobby, and step into your living room or kitchen. The house does not relate to the street in an intimate way. Well, there isn’t any street there.

In addition, the houses are set far apart, as every development must conform to building and planning codes that incorporate transportation standards that are simply outrageous. They have been designed the wrong way around. Technology is meant to make our lives easier by making our activities convenient, but we have designed road geometries for the automobile rather than designing our environment for better human interaction and then making automobiles that can serve such an environment.

The Germans and Italians have made a point in this matter. They had cities that had a medieval fabric with narrow, winding lanes. So they designed cars to suit their purpose. Small cars from Fiat and Volkswagen were designed most optimally.

Now the transportation planners, aware of the problem, have started thinking about what they call VSNVs, or Very Small Neighborhood Vehicles, which would be small battery driven cars for local driving and can fit into smaller garages that allow space for a pedestrian entry.

Although not yet battery-driven, small cars like the Beetle are making a comeback. This is an encouraging trend and needs to be supported and incorporated into our planning standards. I am compelled to use the cliché—small is beautiful. The smaller scale will most likely restore the importance the front of the house serves in making streets pleasurable and sociable.
Sprawl Costs Us All!

**by Jodie Vice** Urban sprawl is a problem that has long been established, but yet been battled. Sprawl, technically defined as “low-density, automobile-dependent development beyond the edge of service and employment areas,” is impacting the quality of life in all of America. People are beginning to realize the costs and consequences of sprawl. The Sierra Club released a report on the twenty most sprawl-threatened cities in the U.S. called “The Dark Side of the American Dream.” This report was written to educate the public about the devastating impacts of sprawl on human life, air, water, parks, wildlands, and wildlife.

Here is a list of the top ten most sprawl-threatened cities:

**Ten Most Sprawl-Threatened Large Cities with a Population of 1 Million or Greater**

1. Atlanta, GA
2. St. Louis, MO
3. Washington, DC
4. Cincinnati, OH
5. Kansas City, MO
6. Denver, CO
7. Seattle, WA
8. Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN
9. Ft. Lauderdale, FL
10. Chicago, IL

Each of these areas are heavily impacted by increased automobile dependency, which ultimately adds millions of tons of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into our atmosphere each year. These areas are also losing many acres of farmland and open land each year. In the last ten years, 15 percent of the Chicago region’s farmlands have disappeared, and that trend will continue. The American Farmland Trust has stated that the land between Chicago and Milwaukee is the third most threatened farmland in the country due to development and shopping centers.

Sprawl will only continue to get worse if our U.S. Congress approves plans to spend between $214 billion and $217 billion on a new transportation bill. This bill will only encourage new highways, which leads to development and strip malls. Urban sprawl needs to be managed in order to prevent increased traffic, dependence on fossil fuels, worsening air and water pollution, lost open space, destroyed wildlife, and dying city centers.

To view or obtain a copy of the Sierra Club report, visit: [http://tamalpais.sierraclub.org/transportation/sprawl/sprawl_report](http://tamalpais.sierraclub.org/transportation/sprawl/sprawl_report)

While the Chicago area population rose 9 percent between 1990 and 1996, the land area expanded 40 percent.
That same Thursday, November 19, Dennis Keating, Professor of Urban Studies at Cleveland State University, will give the Planners Network lecture titled, “Urban Policy Approaching the Millenium” at 7:30 PM in Plym Auditorium.

The GIS Colloquium for November will feature “Applications of GIS in Crop Production Systems” by Harold F. Reetz, Jr., Midwest Director of the Potash and Phosphate Institute. The presentation will review a variety of GIS applications currently being used on farms in the Midwest to characterize, monitor, and manage different aspects of crop and soil management. Most of these applications are analyzed using ArcView. The informal lecture will be held Wednesday, November 18 at 12:00 noon in Davenport 329. Cookies and refreshments will be provided.

Iwan Azis, Professor of Economics at the University of Indonesia, and visiting professor at Cornell University, will deliver the DU RP International Lecture entitled, “How Much Do We Know About the Origins of the Asian Crisis?” Monday, November 23 at 7:30 PM in Plym Auditorium.

There are sure to be more speakers before the semester is over, so keep your eyes and ears open for the latest announcements.

Thanks to Sarah for supplying this information!

interview

Until Next Time

Which one’s Rosie? Raja’s victims, past and not-too-distant future

Raja’s taking some time off this month, but he’ll be back next time with his unique perspective on Amanda Eichelkrout and Rose Chomiak, two recent BAUP graduates who are currently enjoying successful planning-related careers.