In this issue:

News and Events: 1

Memorial:
For Jeann Greenway and Jack Alhadeff 2

Program News:
Fall Reception and Welcoming the new class 3

Program News:
Erica Betts, FEMA Fellow 4
Professor Elliott involved in White House Conference 5
Steve French on NPR 6

Alumni News:
John and Robert Bivens publish new book. 7
Kayah Royal new FHWA career in Vancouver 8

Front Page Image

After eight years of planning Atlantic Station opened officially on Oct. 20. For more info check out their website www.atlanticstation.com

Urban Connections
City and Regional Planning
Fall 2005

News and Events

MCRP’s new Faces!

Georgia Tech welcomes three new members to the CRP department faculty.

This fall we are proud to announce that we now have three new faculty onboard. They are: Dan Immergluck, Brian Stone and Jiawen Wang.

Dan Immergluck specializes in housing, economic development and real estate finance. He conducts research on community reinvestment and fair lending issues, changes in mortgage markets and related policies, community development programs and policies, residential segregation and fair housing, and small and minority business development. His research has been widely published in academic magazines, and he has even been covered in the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal, among other print and broadcast media publications. His most recent book is Credit to the Community: Community Reinvestment and Fair Lending Policy in the U.S. (Sharpe 2004). He has testified before the United States Congress, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and agencies and legislative bodies at the federal, state and local levels.

In addition to receiving his doctorate from Georgia Tech, Stone holds a master’s degree in Environmental Management and a bachelor’s degree in English from Duke University.

Jiawen Yang has joined the department of Urban Studies and Planning at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His dissertation research compares urban growth and transportation in Atlanta and Boston. Yang received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in economic geography and human geography from Peking University in China. His research interest is in urban transportation and urban growth in both developed and developing countries as well as in urban economic theory, system optimization, and geospatial services.

Volunteer Group Image

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In Memory: Jeann Greenway

Jeann Greenway, City and Regional Planning administrative secretary for nineteen years, died last May. She had been fighting a three-year battle with breast cancer. Greenway formally retired in August 2004, but she still came into the office several days a week just “to help out.”

Jeann began working in the then City Planning Program in 1985 after working at Emory University in the Office of the Dean of Men. She was recruited to Georgia Tech by former City Planning Program Director David Sawicki.

In memory of Jeann and others who battled the disease, Ph. D. student Lynn Patterson participated in the annual Susan G. Komen “3 Day.” The Susan G. Komen Foundation (www.komen.org) focuses on breast cancer advocacy. Their “3 day” took place from September 30 to October 2, and was a 60 mile walk to raise funds for the Foundation. Lynn proudly wore a t-shirt bearing Jeann’s name. She also raised approximately $5000 dollars for the cause.

Those who knew Jeann had only wonderful things to say. “I know I speak for the entire faculty when I say that her loyalty and dedication to our Program was remarkable,” said Cheryl Contant, director of the CRP Program. “She was the quintessential administrative professional and our dear friend. We will miss her very much.”

In Memory: Jack Alhadeff

Jack Alhadeff, a water resource scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey, died last March. Alhadeff was a GIS expert and had been co-located with the Georgia Tech GIS Center since 1990. In that role he worked on a number of innovative projects including a digital Environmental Atlas of Georgia and a 3-D flood model for Albany, Georgia. Alhadeff also served as an instructor in the Environmental GIS course in City and Regional Planning for more than a decade and worked with numerous students on master’s theses and independent studies.

Alhadeff was a beloved member of the Georgia Tech community and will be sorely missed. He is survived by his wife Joyce and son Daniel, a sophomore in the Architecture Program.

Lynn Patterson shows her support on the day of the walk.
Welcome New Students!

Fall Reception & Incoming Class

The beginning of the New Year brings with it an exciting new class of students. Upholding program tradition, the Department held its annual Fall Reception for the new class. This new year has also brought about a record number of Graduate Research Assistantships, due largely to the generosity of our supporters in the Metro Atlanta Area.

It is a sign of the program’s credibility and success in producing hard-working, capable students that have made this year’s number of GRA’s the highest seen by the program from both the public and private sector.
MCRP/CEE Water Resources student Erica Betts awarded FEMA fellowship

Dual MCRP/MS CEE Water Resources degree student Erica Betts was chosen as the recipient of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Community Planning Fellowship for 2005-2006. FEMA started the Community Planning Fellowship for graduate planning students in 1999 to raise awareness and ensure that hazard mitigation is effectively incorporated into future urban and rural planning. In recent years, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through its Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds has provided partial support for the program in an effort to increase integration of floodplain and watershed planning.

The fellowship provides funding sufficient to support one year of field research with a community, state or region, six hours of independent study with a faculty advisor in the area of local and state hazard mitigation planning, and summer orientation work in Washington D.C. Erica’s faculty advisor is Prof. Steve French, who is a world-renowned expert in hazard mitigation planning. Erica did her orientation during the summer of 2005 with the two funding agencies: FEMA and EPA. She also worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources in the hopes of integrating their flood hazard mitigation goals with the other two agencies. Erica said it was “a valuable experience, gaining access to these three agencies and their programs, governing policies, funding vehicles, etc.”

During the academic year, Erica is working on a project with the NOAA Coastal Services Center and the Georgia Conservancy. For more information on the project go to: http://www.csc.noaa.gov/alternatives/

Once the internship and independent study have been completed, Erica will present a paper of her research findings at the annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop in Boulder, Colorado.

The FEMA Community Planning Fellowships are intended to facilitate the integration of hazard mitigation principles into the graduate-level curricula of urban, regional, and environmental planning schools; assist communities, regional organizations, and states in developing and maintaining effective hazard mitigation planning programs; explore how FEMA can best integrate planning principles and approaches into its ongoing mitigation initiatives as well as its post-disaster mitigation and recovery efforts; and give students practical exposure in multi-objective watershed planning.

FEMA had twenty four applicants this year, and Erica Betts emerged as the sole new recipient for the year 2005-2006. The FEMA press release highlighted that a main reason for selecting Erica was that her dual degree in Planning and Civil Engineering with a focus on water resources results in “a rare degree combination,” leading to “water resource professionals with both technical and planning expertise.” Erica credits the reputation of both the Georgia Tech City Planning Program and her advisor Dr. French for her receipt of this year’s award.

The FEMA Community Planning fellowship is a welcome initiative to encouraging the best and brightest pursue a career in disaster mitigation. In light of the damage witnessed by Hurricane Katrina and Rita, Erica hopes that other students will be driven to explore this exciting and valuable field. If anyone has questions about applying for next year’s fellowship or where to learn more, she would be thrilled to help.
Michael Elliot works to promote more comprehensive conservation efforts at the White House’s unique Conference.

On August 29th through 31st, Michael Elliott served as a lead facilitator for the White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation. Initiated through Executive Order, the fourth White House Conference to focus on conservation in our nation’s history sought to strengthen shared governance and citizen stewardship of natural resources. The Conference was hosted by the US Council on Environmental Quality, the Departments of Commerce, Agriculture, Interior and Defense, and the US Environmental Protection Agency. The 1,200 invited participants included federal, state, tribal and local governmental officials, non-profit and private sector organizations, and private citizens, all with an interest in cooperative conservation.

The Conference was divided into three segments: learning from successful cooperative conservation efforts, engaging in dialogue over barriers to and strategies to enhance effective conservation, and implications for future directions. The first day focused on presentations made by participants in 32 successful cooperatives. Presenters focused on what has worked and why, seeking to examine the characteristics needed to facilitate interjurisdictional and public/private cooperation in the conservation of resources.

A core challenge facing the White House Conference was promoting effective dialogue amongst 1,200 participants during the second day. Meaningful dialogue would result in identification of key barriers to cooperatives and of practical actions that could be taken by either national actors (federal government or national NGOs such as The Nature Conservancy) or by local actors (state, tribal or local governments or local NGOs and individuals). Yet dialogue was complicated by three significant factors:

- **Scale**: the need to enable 1,200 participants, all of whom were invited because of their expertise or experience in conservation issues, to present their views effectively;
- **Diversity**: the wide range of interests represented, ranging from environmental groups to property rights activists and from federal agencies to individual citizens; and
- **Political context**: the conference was designed to promote more effective conservation strategies through cooperative public-private and federal-local partnerships, and to explore policy changes needed to facilitate such conservation.

As a lead facilitator, Prof. Elliott took responsibility for designing and managing the dialogue around one of the nine major themes, namely “Measuring Success of Cooperative Conservation Efforts.” Working with a team of 13 facilitators, compilers and note takers, Prof. Elliott organized a process to allow participants to explore barriers to and strategies by which cooperatives can more effectively set clear goals to guide the cooperative, monitor achievement of those goals for feedback, and evaluate the success of these efforts. Altogether, 240 of the conference participants partook in one of the eight dialogue groups organized to discuss this theme.

Given the large number of participants, complexity of the issues, and relatively small time frame, the facilitators faced a considerable challenge in presenting the discussions in a concise format. Yet the biggest challenge was synthesizing the concerns and suggestions made by participants. Prof. Elliott and the other “Measuring Success” facilitators created two page summaries for each of the eight dialogue groups. At the end of the day, Elliott led his team in producing a four-page synthesis of all eight group synopses. In turn, the core design team then led Elliott and the other eight lead facilitators to produce a single two-page document highlighting key issues and strategies that cut across all of the nine major themes. Finally, the design team and the lead facilitators briefed the Day 3 panelists on the outcomes of the dialogues and their implications for national and local strategies and policies.

At the start of Day 3, all conference participants were presented with a publication of the four-page syntheses of each of the nine major themes. The panels, including some of the top leaders in both conservation and the federal government, then discussed the results of the breakout sessions, identifying opportunities for improving federal-local and public-private cooperation between conservationists.

While it is too early to tell whether this White House Conferences will meet its goal of promoting more effective cooperative conservation, Prof. Elliott felt that the conference met the goal of facilitating a more pointed, efficient discussion that accurately reflected the range of concerns facing today’s cooperative conservation efforts.

**Follow this link to see the website:** [http://www.conservation.ceq.gov/about.html](http://www.conservation.ceq.gov/about.html)
Prof. Steve French Interviewed on NPR station WBUR on September 1st. The interview was conducted by Tom Ashbrook, host of OnPoint, a syndicated morning news show on National Public Radio. (Unfortunately, NPR affiliates in Atlanta do not carry OnPoint, but it is archived on their website).

OnPoint Host Tom Ashbrook interviewed Dr. French and Tom Campanella, Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The topic was whether or not New Orleans and the Hurricane Katrina-affected areas could or should rebuild.

Prof. French stated that New Orleans will be restored but not nearly to the pre-Katrina size. He said he thought the industry would come back and the French Quarter might be somewhat rebuilt or restored, but that the population would largely disburse. Several factors played into his thinking:

1) a major loss of wealth has occurred due to the fact that private insurance does not cover floods and half the population does not take advantage of national flood insurance. He estimated the aggregate private losses at roughly 30 billion dollars. He said he felt that Coastal towns outside of New Orleans would build more expensive structures to replace the old ones, but New Orleans, he saw as a different case.

He said that clean-up will be unprecedented in scale and will take longer than any previous natural disaster in U.S. history. He said that there are tremendous psychological and sociological pressures to rebuild, but the economic pressures on the New Orleans refugees will be to restart their life elsewhere because of the months it will take before they could even begin to rebuild their lives and jobs there.

“There are tremendous Psychological and Sociological pressures to rebuild.”

Follow these links to here the interview and for what you can do to help:
http://www.onpointradio.org/
http://www.RedCross.org
Alumni Briefs

- Art Sheldon (MCP ‘81) was recently elected as the chairman of the Gwinnett Transit Advisory Board. He was an original appointee to the board when it was formed four years ago and was reappointed to the board this year for another four year term.

- Claudia Martin Bilotto (MCP ’01) has joined GeoStats as a project coordinator/manager. GeoStats specializes in the development and use of GPS and GIS technologies for use in data collection and analysis in transportation related studies. Claudia will be working on studies that examine travel patterns and behavior as well as data collection and survey efforts for transportation agencies. Since graduating in spring 2001, she has worked for SyCAMore Consulting. This change will allow her to focus more on the technical aspects of planning, which she enjoys most.

- Joellen Wilson (MCP ’98) gave birth to her second child, Gavin Paul Wilson on Sunday, September 18. Joellen has been working with Hughes, Good, O’Leary & Ryan, Inc. for over 15 years (including during the time she was a student in the MCP Program). She has also been working part-time since her daughter Niah was born in March, 2001. She has done some consulting work from home, but plans to go back to HGOR part-time after her 6-month maternity leave. Her work is now concentrated on research, analysis, and reports for Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs) throughout Georgia, as well as related rezoning and general land development.

Alumni News

Great Cities....A Bold Initiative

New Book by Alumni Brothers, Robert & John Bivens (MCP ’60)

Here is the tale of two brothers and how they came to write a planning book....

In 1958, Robert (Bob) Bivens left a ‘boring but secure’ position with the Atomic Energy Division of the duPont Company and enrolled in the City Planning Program at Georgia Tech. Upon completion in 1960, then Program Director Howard Menhinick told him that the Atlanta business community was looking for someone to organize and direct the revitalization of the valuable, but deteriorating area contiguous to, and north of central Atlanta. It was delicately balanced on the fence of revitalization and development or decay. The area became known as “Uptown” (now known as Midtown). The revitalization efforts included every possible element: code enforcement, rehabilitation, promotion and major projects. The Uptown Association prepared and distributed a totally unconventional plan, “UPTOWN IDEAS”, which suggested a variety of actions to improve the area. Without fanfare or formal adoption, virtually every suggestion in it was accomplished in the seven years of the Association’s existence. It changed the area.

Some time later the Uptown Association and the old Central Atlanta Improvement Association merged to form Central Atlanta Progress, Inc. (CAP) which Bob served as first Executive Director. CAP is a non-profit, private organization of businesspersons, property owners and institutions working together and with the City in a real private-public partnership. Bob describes it as “an indescribable challenge, CAP and the City worked together to develop plans and implementation programs for guiding growth of the heart of the City.” By combining their unique powers, the public and private sector gained an “awesome” partnership of combined wisdom and strength.

Bob and his brother, John, received their Masters Degrees in City Planning together in spring 1960. During their tenure in the Program, little emphasis was placed on the unique, positive power of private enterprise and the combined power of private-public partnerships. In fact, virtually nothing was written about it. When he began his career, Bob quickly learned that neither government nor private enterprise alone can create great cities. But great accomplishments can come when government creates a climate of trust, cooperation and judicious guidance that fosters the creativity, business acumen, development and marketing skills of private enterprise. To illustrate: no single person has done more to define, plan and develop Central Atlanta than Architect-Developer John Portman; no person has been more visionary and ingenious in major Central Atlanta projects than developer Tom

Kayah Royal, MCRP Sp’05

Originally from Warner Robins, GA, Kayah Royal left her hometown in 1995 to study biology at Emory University in Atlanta. After graduating from Emory she took a position at the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), in the Office of Environment as an ecologist/transportation planner, where she gained knowledge of the Georgia Tech City and Regional Planning Program. This program peaked her interest because of her desire to expand her transportation and environmental experience in order to exert greater influence on public decision-making. In the fall of 2003 she left the Georgia Department of Transportation to pursue her planning education full time. Due to her innovative work and the promise she showed as a GDOT employee, Kayah was awarded a position in the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) Student Career Experience Program. This internship allowed her to work on a variety of GDOT and MPO programs, projects and initiatives. Upon graduating from Georgia Tech, Kayah accepted a position as an environmental protection specialist trainee in the FHWA’s Professional Development Program. She is based in Vancouver, WA in the Western Federal Lands Highway Division. The Professional Development Program, through various occupational assignments, will allow her to diversify her transportation knowledge and expand her work experience even further. Kayah is a member of APA and a volunteer for Girl Scouts of America.
Cousins. With CAP as the catalyst-convener-supporter, these talented people and others worked together and with governments to do what neither could do alone. Such organizations as CAP are the melting pot of ideas and builders of consensus. They form a self-policing body that restrains favoritism and deal-making and provides a great composite of learning experience for all who participate in them. Most complex city projects require many years from concept to finish, frequently transcending several changes of political leadership. Strong private sector organizations provide continuity for completing such projects.

Bob also observed this public/private power while serving in various other capacities throughout his career: (1) as President of Garden Cities Corporation and for four years heading the planning and development of the privately-financed, 15,000-acre, planned “new town” of Peachtree City, (2) as President of Louisville Central Area, Inc. during the biggest surge of downtown development in its history, and (3) as President of Southern Tier Economic Growth, leading the economic turnaround of New York State’s most distressed metro area.

Bob’s brother John, who co-authored the book, specialized in high-level transportation system planning. Working for the old Atlanta Regional Metropolitan Planning Commission, he directed formulation of the first rapid transit plan for Atlanta. By special request, he was invited to serve as principal consultant to the Institute of Public Administration in New York City under contract with the federal government for study and recommendations leading to a national transportation policy. He was the first Director of Planning for the State of Delaware, Vice President of Magnetic Transit of America and Assistant Director of the Arizona Department of Transportation. He consulted for more than thirty areas nationally and internationally.

Bob felt that what he learned and observed was too important not to share, so he and his brother John decided to co-author a book entitled GREAT CITIES ... A Bold Initiative, which was just released in August of 2005.

To the best of their knowledge, this is the first such book written by trained, experienced city center professionals. Bob says “We recommend it for anyone studying city planning, whether they plan to work with public or private agencies. It pulls no punches and tackles many key issues that have been glossed over in the past. Most of all, it shows how great cities can be built by harnessing the powers of private enterprise in concert with those of cooperating governments.”

On a personal note Bob states: “I found my new career the most exciting, satisfying challenge imaginable. I strongly recommend it to persons wanting to make a difference.”