It is my pleasure to introduce to you the inaugural issue of our Community and Regional Planning (CRP) newsletter. I hope that after you read this first edition you will walk away with a better understanding of the program, faculty, staff, students, and Graduate Certificate in Community and Regional Planning (CCRP) alumni who have been instrumental in making our programs such a resounding success. First are our three new faculty members; Drs. Amanda Johnson, Thomas Wuerzer, and Pengyu Zhu. Since their arrival they have kept up an active research agenda, taught planning coursework, and still found time to reach out to the local community to gain a better understanding of how our program can assist local and regional agencies in addressing the planning needs of this community. If that isn’t enough, they have also done an outstanding job working with our students, students who continue to excel through unique internship placements such as the ones Helen Ubic and Cherilyn Blender experienced that have contributed to their own growth as future community planners. Our Master of Community and Regional Planning (MCRP) Graduate Assistants, Remington Buyer, Paul Morrow, John Van Dyke, Patrick Watson, and Riley Youngerman have been placed in numerous positions that have expanded their understanding of the field as well as provided them with placements that will serve them well when they begin their own careers.

I also want to take a moment to recognize a few people. First, much of what happens in this program would not be possible without the expertise and professionalism of Sheila Weaver. She makes us look good and for that we owe her our thanks. Second, Rick Jung has been instrumental in helping us secure outside funding for Graduate Assistantships. Recipients of those awards conduct work for the co-funding agency as part of their Graduate Assistantship experience.

Additionally we want to thank our adjunct faculty members who diversify and enhance our curriculum offerings as well as bring practical experience into the classroom. Our 2010-2012 adjunct faculty members are Chris Blanchard, JoAnn Butler, Diane Kushlan, and Al Shoushtarian.

As our programs grow we have emerging priorities such as the need to provide scholarship support for our students. Please look for more information about this endeavor in our newsletter.

Finally, while this is the first newsletter for our programs, it will also be the last one I write as its Director. Dr. Jaap Vos, will join our growing programs in August as our new director. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as the founding director of both the Graduate Certificate and Master programs in Community and Regional Planning. I have truly appreciated the counsel, support, and encouragement that each of you have offered me over the past seven years. However, I will not be too far away as I will be resuming my faculty position within the programs. Thank you for seven wonderful years.

Sincerely,
Dr. Susan Mason
Interim Director and Associate Professor
Community and Regional Planning
We are pleased to announce that Dr. Jacobus “Jaap” Vos will be joining us as the new Director of Community and Regional Planning Program. Dr. Vos is the current director of the School of Planning at Florida Atlantic University, where he has proven to be an innovative and successful leader.

He holds a Ph.D. in Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a Master’s degree in Environmental Science from Wageningen University in the Netherlands. Dr. Vos’ main interests include environmental planning, environmental justice, and sustainable development. He has published articles about community participation, environmental justice and equity in planning and continues to present at conferences on a variety of planning topics.

Dr. Vos will be joining us August 1, 2012. He will be instrumental in guiding the Master program through the accreditation process and for the continued growth of the Community and Regional Planning programs. Please help us in welcoming him and his family to Boise!

Dr. Amanda Johnson received a Ph.D. in City and Regional Planning in the School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political of Science and International Studies from the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern University. Her areas of expertise include planning history, economic development, community development, urban revitalization, and public health.

Dr. Thomas Wuerzer received his Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio. He holds an B.A./M.A. in Geography from the University of Bayreuth, Germany, an M.A. in Urban Affairs and Public Policy from the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, and a Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio. His research foci are land use planning, mixed-use developments, GIS, and an emphasis on “healthy city” and “landscapes of health” as interface between public health and planning/policy.

Dr. Pengyu Zhu received his Ph.D. in Policy, Planning and Development from the School of Policy, Planning and Development at the University of Southern California. He also holds B.S./M.S. in Urban Planning from Nanjing University and a M.S. in Forestry Economics from Auburn University. His research interests have been centered on urban economics and urban policy. His areas of expertise include transportation, housing, economic development and GIS.

Sheila Weaver, Administrative Assistant, is currently pursuing her Bachelor of Social Work degree with an emphasis in Gerontology and Dispute Resolution. She has been with the State of Idaho for seven years, the last three which have been with Boise State University. Sheila is available as a point of contact and is happy to assist with the day-to-day operations of the Community and Regional Planning programs.
Dr. Amanda Johnson - presented the papers, “Developing Arts Districts: Analyzing the Role of Philanthropic Leadership in Seattle, Washington” and “Analyzing Art Districts as Neighborhood Anchors: The Case of the Philadelphia Avenue of the Arts” at the Society for American City and Regional Planning History Conference and at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Annual Conference. The Arts and Humanities Institute awarded Drs. Johnson, Anthony Marker, John Ziker, Erin McClellan, and Katherine Huntley an Interdisciplinary Research Communities grant for the topic “Translating Sustainability.” Johnson was invited to speak on “The Role of Arts as a Community Revitalization Strategy” at the National Symposium on Arts Districts in Baltimore, Maryland sponsored by the Maryland State Arts Council, Maryland Institute College of Art, Art Works, and Station North Arts and Entertainment District.

Dr. Susan G. Mason - co-authored the article “Primary Factors Influencing Green Building in Cities in the Pacific Northwest,” in the journal Public Works Management & Policy with Professors Anthony Marker and Rebecca Mirsky in the College of Engineering. Mason with Drs. Brian Wampler, John Ziker and John McClellan conducted a study producing the report Exploring Public Participation in the Treasure Valley Preliminary Research Findings and Drs. Mason and McClellan in the Department of Communication gave a presentation of the study’s findings for an Urban Lunch program at the Center on Main.

Dr. Thomas Wuerzer - presented at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning annual conference a paper titled “Empowering Healthy Communities: From Vision and Technology to Action” showing the issues of fighting obesity and integration of GIS as part of his research on food and healthy cities. Wuerzer is a proponent of active living research and recently released the Boise Bike Share Location Analysis report together with Dr. Mason and Riley Youngerman. This report suggests potential locations for the future bike share program in Boise as proposed by the Central District Health Department.


Thank you to our 2011-2012 Community Partners!
2011-2012 Graduate Assistants

Remington Buyer (pictured below with Ryan McDaniel, of IDWR and CCRP ’07) - has a joint appointment graduate assistantship with the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) and the MCRP program. Remington is spending all of his working hours with the Idaho Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning (Risk MAP) program mapping flood hazards, using LIDAR data and modeling economic damage associated with numerous flood and seismic events. Next year, he will spend his assistantship working hours with a faculty member in the MCRP program.

Paul Morrow (pictured below with Carl Miller of COMPASS) - has a joint appointment graduate assistantship this semester and next Fall with COMPASS and the MCRP program. He is currently spending half of his time working with COMPASS on a complete streets project and the other half working with Dr. Mason on several research endeavors including one along with Dr. Anthony Marker of the Department of Information Performance Technology researching factors that contribute to developer’s decision-making to engage or not in green building. Paul is also working with Drs. Mason and Thomas of University of Missouri-St. Louis’ Political Science Department on a project to understand more about the relationships between cities and their suburbs when it comes to using tax increment financing for economic development.
2011-2012 Graduate Assistants (continued)

John VanDyke  (left) - is working on a two year study on the Alignment of New College Graduates with Workforce Requirements in the Boise Valley. The study is being conducted by Dr. Phil Gardner of Michigan State University, Debbie Kaylor from the Boise State University Career Center, Dr. Eric Landrum of the Department of Psychology and Drs. Mason and Zhu from the Community and Regional Planning programs. In addition to contributing to an overall two-year study John is actively engaged with Drs. Zhu and Mason on the analysis of the Boise region demographics and industry trends portion of the study.

Additionally, John created a database containing more than 57 million data points. The database contains the majority of the housing data compiled by the 2000 U.S. Census at the Block Group level. Housing data was also obtained from the 2005-2009 5-year American Community Survey and corresponding queries were built to expedite the process of data gathering in the future. John also assisted Dr. Zhu with the editing of an article submitted to the journal Transportation and spent time learning the fundamentals of the Statistical Analysis System (SAS) program.

Patrick Watson, CCRP ’11 (right) - has been working with Dr. Amanda Johnson this past year on several research projects that track and evaluate redevelopment projects. This past fall, Patrick collected data and analyzed downtown and neighborhood revitalization in Philadelphia and Seattle. In this capacity, he created several timelines on anchor institutions along the Avenue of the Arts, uncovered planning documents and other primary sources that have shaped district investments, pulled together historical and contemporary socio-economic data on several neighborhoods, and created a database for tracking public and private sources of support that he will soon help populate. Currently, Patrick is working with Dr. Johnson to lay the groundwork for tracking and evaluating military base closures in the United States and is creating a database for collecting key indicators to create a typology of projects and is using spatial modeling techniques to map these diverse public/private endeavors.

Riley Youngerman, CCRP ’11 (left) - as part of a project on bike sharing programs, Riley researched bike shares at the national and international level. His findings are the essential base of the GIS models in the Boise Bike Share Location Analysis. He is working with Dr. Thomas Wuerzer on research related to food and urban health. Riley is one of the TEN volunteers supporting the metropolitan planning organization COMPASS in the Communities in Motion planning workshops.

Student Group

The Community and Regional Planning program is pleased to announce the formation of a MCRP/CCRP student group. President Paul Morrow, Social Media Director Patrick Watson, Treasurer Kristof Bihari (right), and Secretary Remington Buyer have spent the better part of the academic year setting an organization structure and mission for the burgeoning collective. The student group envisions conducting outreach with local and regional planning groups, tackling research on planning issues, organizing professional development and networking opportunities, and working with university student groups, staff, and faculty to further build a dialogue around planning and sustainability related topics.
Graduate Certificate in Community and Regional Planning Graduation Celebration

All former Community and Regional Planning graduates and faculty are encouraged to attend the celebration and welcome in the new Graduate Certificate program alumni on May 11, 2012 from 5:00 - 6:30pm in the Farnsworth Room of the Student Union

Adam Down  
Michael Ellis  
Kristen Jackson  
Rebecca Jacobsen

Theodore Kielley  
Camille Kirkpatrick  
Devin McGlynn  
Paul Morrow

Helen Ubic  
Patrick Watson  
Riley Youngerman

More Details Coming Soon!

Internship Spotlight

Recently Helen Ubic (CCRP ’11) (left), interned with the Urban Land Institute Idaho District Council and its partners the University of Idaho, COMPASS, Idaho Center for Sustainable Agriculture, Treasure Valley Food Coalition and Idaho Smart Growth to produce a study titled Sustaining Agriculture. Agriculture needs sun, water, good land, and access to infrastructure. Urban growth demands the same resources.

This study explores the encouragement of environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable local agriculture while maintaining needed agricultural resources like land, given the pressures of urban growth in the Treasure Valley.

A Community Action Grant from ULI Foundation funded the research. The brochure can be downloaded at https://netforum.uli.org/iWeb/images/ULIEvents/81491210/Sustaining%20Ag_ULIwebpage.pdf.

Cherilyn Blender, (CCRP ’10 and current MCRP student), was awarded an internship with Community Transportation Association of Idaho (CTAI) to assist the CTAI and the American Society of Civil Engineers in the development of an overall Infrastructure Report Card for the Boise region. Cherilyn was awarded the internship after completing Dr. Pengyu Zhu’s community data course, where he led his class in the development of a regional alternatives scoring mechanism. As part of the internship, Blender created the transit portion of the Infrastructure Report Card that was presented to legislators at the statehouse on March 15th, 2012.

Alumni Updates

Shelby Day (CCRP ’10)- moved to Portland to become the Cultural Resources Specialist and Project Manager for the Bonneville Power Administration.

Jed Glavin (CCRP ‘11 and current MCRP student)- Congratulations to the Glavins who welcomed in their first child, Boone Howl Glavin on May 17, 2011.

Ryan McDaniel (CCRP ’08)- serving Idaho as Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) Coordinator, Ryan worked with the project team on one of the nation’s first Risk MAP Discovery pilots and is now working to develop an Idaho Risk Assessment program that enables local floodplain managers to better manage the floodplain through Risk MAP. Ryan has partnered with the Idaho Silver Jackets to incorporate existing flood studies, create common technical specifications and promote flood risk awareness.

Andrew Mentzer (CCRP ’07) - is embarking on the TransWorld Tour (http://www.transworldtour.com). Andrew is also starting law school at Concordia this fall and continuing to own/run Boise’s first hostel, IdahoHostel—“the trickiest planning project I have ever undertaken.”
What is a Planner in Practice and what do they do? A Planner in Practice provides yet another way to bring the expertise of planners in the field to the CRP programs. Expert planners will be invited to participate with our programs as a Planner in Practice. The expertise that Planners in Practice will bring to the Community and Regional Planning programs is just one of factors that sets our CRP programs apart from others.

If you would like to see the impact that just such a program will have on our students, you need look no further than our summer courses to see our 2012 Planner in Practice.

Dr. Sumner Sharpe (left), who holds a Ph.D. in Urban Planning from the University of Washington and a Master’s Degree in City and Regional Planning from Cornell University in addition to Post-Graduate work at the London School of Economics. He was awarded his AICP Fellowship for his unsurpassed professionalism in practice, teaching and mentoring, research, public and community service, and leadership. Dr. Sharpe is the first Planner in Practice for the Community and Regional Planning programs at Boise State University.

Dr. Sharpe has had a distinguished career that includes teaching planning in Thailand as a Peace Corps volunteer and working throughout the Pacific Northwest in various roles as a city planner, regional planner, non-profit director, professor, and private consultant. Additionally, he served as President of the American Institute of Certified Planners and the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association. He is currently the Planner-in-Residence at the Portland State University School of Urban Studies and Planning.

Save the Date!

On Thursday, May 10th, the Community and Regional Planning program will host a public exhibition at the Center on Main. The event will feature student projects and presentations, conversations with community members about regional planning topics, and guest speakers sharing information about contemporary trends and innovations in land use, transportation, economic development, and environmental planning.

A complete listing of events will be posted on the MCRP/CCRP website.
Boise State University’s Master of Community and Regional Planning program is designed to educate professional planners with an understanding of the breadth and depth of planning issues and practices in general but also to provide a perspective of planning issues unique to Boise, Idaho and the Intermountain West. Today, many of our students in the CRP programs work full-time, part-time or even several part-time jobs while attending school. Now we are coming to you with a simple request to help support the future leaders in community and regional planning.

Our goal is to raise $50,000 dollars to create the Master of Community and Regional Planning Scholarship Program. This scholarship will be awarded to one student each year providing them with up to $2,000 ($1,000 per semester) to assist with their education expenses. Your support, whether it is $25, $50, $100 or another amount, will have a lasting impact on the lives of the many students we educate here in the Community and Regional Planning programs at Boise State University.

The process of making a donation is simple. Just go to the Community and Regional Planning webpage, http://sspa.boisestate.edu/communityandregionalplanning/scholarship/, click on the “Donate” button and follow the step-by-step instructions or, if you like, simply print and tear off the bottom portion of this page, indicate your donation, and make out a check payable to the BSU Foundation, and mail it to:

Boise State University Foundation
2225 University Drive
Boise, ID 83706

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I would like to support Community and Regional Planning at Boise State University!

Donation Amount:

____ $25  ____ $50  ____ $100  ____ Other

Name: ___________________________________________________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________________________________

City _____________________________ State _________ Zip __________________

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Boise State University Foundation - Community and Regional Planning Endowed Scholarship Fund