

UNIVERSITY
OF OREGON

PPPM Circle

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND ALLIED ARTS NUMBER 11 FALL 2006

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How Should We Train Professionals?

This year the PPPM department is reviewing its graduate planning and public administration programs. There are several reasons for the review: first, the programs have not undergone a comprehensive review for several years; second, several new faculty members have joined the department over the past six years and we will be adding two more this year; third, issues were raised during professional accreditation reviews, including new criteria that the programs need to address.

This review is taking place through a series of phases:

- Survey of existing students, completed June 2006
- Survey of alumni, currently in progress (see below)
- Review of findings with faculty and PPPM advisory committee, January–March 2007
- Implementation of findings, January–June 2007
- Submit changes through university curriculum process
- Feedback to faculty hiring committee



Hendricks Hall

Supporting Future Professionals

We are making a special effort to connect with you, because our network of alumni is important for this department.

Mentoring. At the suggestion of the PPPM advisory committee, we are asking alumni to help with student mentoring. This can include being available for informational interviews about careers or offering to be an e-mail mentor, providing students with a professional contact to ask advice and questions. You can volunteer for mentoring through the alumni survey or the PPPM volunteer form. *See the insert below for details.*

Projects and Internships. Our internship program, which has been moved to the Community Service Center, will now be headed by Megan Smith. Megan will also continue to direct the Resource Assistance of Rural Environments (RARE) program. This will give potential partners a “one-stop shop” for internships, RARE internships, and Community Planning Workshop projects. This new role, combined with the school’s new Office of Professional Outreach and Development for Students (PODS), will greatly enhance support services for students.

Funding. Funding for student research and scholarships is becoming increasingly important. The PPPM department has a strong national reputation for research and student quality, but we always need more resources for students. Your donations to scholarship funds or the PPPM general fund are vital for supporting this mission.

HOW CAN I PROVIDE FEEDBACK?

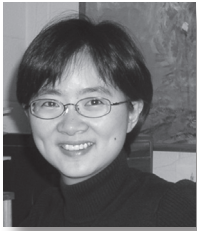
This fall we contacted alumni by e-mail to ask them to help provide feedback about professional training needs and over 261 completed the survey. However, some of you could not be contacted because we didn’t have up-to-date e-mail addresses. If you would like to complete the survey or just give us your contact details, visit our home page, pppm.uoregon.edu, and look for the QUICK LINKS heading. Click on ALUMNI SURVEY for the survey and volunteer forms and click on VOLUNTEER FOR PPPM to volunteer.

Vision
Leadership
Community



FACULTY RESEARCH NOTES

Yizhao Yang



As a special sworn status researcher of the U.S. Census Bureau, Acting Assistant Professor Yizhao Yang has recently completed a study investigating the experience of residents in compact and mixed environments at the New York Census Research Data Center at Cornell. She compared how a person's evaluation of his or her neighborhood varies according to neighborhood density, land-use mix, and housing mix in several metropolitan areas where regional land-use policies have encouraged more compact and mixed development. Her analyses show that higher levels of neighborhood satisfaction are associated with some, but not all, characteristics related to the compact and mixed environments. She will present her research findings at a conference in November.

Renee A. Irvin

Article: Renee A. Irvin and Patrick Carr. "The Role of Philanthropy in Local Government Finance," *Public Budgeting and Finance*, Vol. 25 No. 3 (2005)

Nonprofit organizations thrive on the altruism of citizens and actively court donors for major gifts. Yet individual gifts to government agencies are often unexpected, sporadic, and initiated by the donor. This article introduces the phenomenon of private giving to local governments and tests hypotheses regarding the expected forms of giving to public agencies. Results indicate that philanthropy is and will likely remain a minor and highly variable source of revenue, making it an ill-suited replacement for broad-based tax revenue. However, deliberate government efforts to provide a suitable environment for private donations appear to succeed in attracting more gifts per capita.



Marc Schlossberg



Assistant Professor Marc Schlossberg is working with the National Center for Biking and Walking to develop a unique tool to help communities assess neighborhood walkability around schools in order to improve the conditions for children to walk and bike to school. The School Environment Assessment Tool is a GIS tool that works on hand-held computers, developed to allow participation by a broad range of community members—public officials and concerned citizens alike—in data gathering and analysis. The testing on this tool is scheduled to finish in early 2007 and it will be made available by the center to communities across the country.

Richard Margerum

Consensus-based approaches to decision making are hypothesized to produce better communication, better solutions, and stronger commitment. However, few studies have compared groups with different decision-making approaches to determine the effect of consensus. In a study cosponsored by the League of Oregon Cities, 733 individuals on local government advisory committees were surveyed to answer this question and help provide guidance for local governments. The study found that the consensus-based groups were more satisfied with the process and outputs, but that consensus is a difficult variable to measure. A longer set of qualitative-process variables is better able to predict process and output quality. A summary of the study findings is available at the League of Oregon Cities web site.



Michael Hibbard



Study: Kathleen Rasmussen, Michael Hibbard, and Kathy Lynn, "Wildland Fire Management as Conservation-Based Development: An Opportunity for Reservation Communities?" *Society and Natural Resources* (forthcoming, 2007)

Wildland fire management, an enterprise that gauges the threat of wildfire in scrubby, undeveloped areas, provides opportunities to engage in conservation-based development—helping communities to strengthen their connections with the land, improve ecosystem health, stimulate small-business development, and reduce risks from fire. Indian communities, many of which are dependent on natural resources, are an important example of the potential of wildland fire management for conservation-based development. We interviewed representatives of all federally recognized tribes in the Pacific Northwest to learn about the opportunities for fire-management activities to restore the ecosystem and provide opportunities for cultural development.

MESSAGE FROM RICHARD MARGERUM, HEAD OF PPPM

Greetings from the UO campus! We are pleased to send this special fall edition of our PPPM department newsletter. We want to keep you informed about the department and let you know how you can become involved. Whether you are a graduate of the former Wallace School of Community Service and Public Affairs, the master of urban and regional planning program, or the current PPPM department, we are interested in keeping in touch with you.

This spring we began reviewing the planning and public administration degree programs to help the department determine its future educational priorities. As part of this review, we surveyed alumni by e-mail. We asked for feedback on the UO educational experience, skills and needs for future professionals, and offered opportunities for helping the department. The response has far exceeded our expectations, with over 260 alums responding to the survey and 140 volunteers for activities such as e-mail mentoring and informational interviews for students. We also heard from several other people who wanted to provide feedback but haven't provided us with a current e-mail address. So, we decided to send a fall newsletter to update everyone and offer all of you the opportunity to complete the survey or volunteer for activities such as student mentoring. You can access these sites by going to the QUICK LINKS heading on our home page, pppm.uoregon.edu, and following the ALUMNI SURVEY or VOLUNTEER FOR PPPM links.

If you are thinking about donating to the department, please know that we use every dollar carefully. Many thanks to all of you who help support the Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management.



Eugene Walking and Biking Summit

On October 7, 2006, approximately 225 community members, bicycle and pedestrian activists, state representatives, and bicycle-industry business leaders participated in the Eugene Walking and Biking Summit sponsored by the City of Eugene and hosted at the University of Oregon. PPPM students, in coordination with the Community Service Center's Community Planning Workshop, facilitated the day's activities. The summit brought a diverse group of community members and experts together to discuss the challenges and opportunities for biking and walking in Eugene, Oregon, and marked the beginning of the public involvement process associated with the City of Eugene's Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategic Plan.

Riding the Wave to Disaster Recovery

By Krista Mitchell, Project Coordinator, Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup

The Oregon Natural Hazards Workgroup (ONHW) at the University of Oregon's Community Service Center has partnered with Cascadia Region Earthquake Workgroup, the U.S. Geological Survey, and Oregon Emergency Management to better prepare coastal communities in the Pacific Northwest. ONHW developed and documented a pilot project focusing on catastrophic long-term disaster recovery in Cannon Beach, Oregon, in March 2006. This process identified recovery issues the community will face and developed a work plan for the City of Cannon Beach, with input from stakeholders. The pilot project highlighted the importance of planning for the impact of catastrophic events on the local economy and land-use and development patterns.

Growth in Not-For-Profit Management Certificate

The graduate not-for-profit certificate program continues to draw students from all over campus and the community for an ever-expanding menu of courses. The board governance course, where students serve on nonprofit boards, is in its second year; the philanthropy course is currently in its third year. PPPM's nonprofit program is now known nationally for its innovative curriculum and remarkable growth. Program director Renee Irvin reports that over seventy graduate students are currently enrolled. The next step for the program is to pique the interest of more undergraduate students in PPPM's new minor in nonprofit administration.

PPPM Students and Faculty Engage in Joint Class with OSU

The Ducks and the Beavers may be rivals on the field, but they are partners in the classroom. Professor Michael Hibbard and several second-year graduate students from the PPPM department are collaborating with students and faculty members at Oregon State University in a joint course aimed at developing community sustainability indicators for rural communities. The course is assisting the Ford Family Foundation in developing sustainability indicators for the Coquille Valley. The Ford Family Foundation hopes to be able to use the information the class gathers to form a process that will assist communities throughout the state in developing sustainability indicators.



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School of Architecture and Allied Arts

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

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How Can I Support PPPM?

Annual gifts from our alumni and friends are important for the department. Your financial support helps us to maintain a high standard of academic excellence. Some of our funding needs for 2006–7 include the following:

- Student scholarships
- Student field trips and research
- Small research and community service projects
- The annual PPPM awards ceremony
- Upgrades to the PPPM seminar room (Room 100)

NEW KVARSTEN FUND

Thanks to the generous contributions of the Kvarsten family, a new fund has been established in memory of Wes Kvarsten. This fund is designed to help support faculty research, which is especially important with new faculty members joining the department.

Please make your tax-deductible gift to the UO Foundation (write “PPPM” on the comment line) and mail to the Office of Development, School of Architecture and Allied Arts, 5235 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-5235. For questions about gifts, including real estate or stocks, please call (541) 346-3697. Thank you for supporting the PPPM department!

PPPM Circle

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119 Hendricks Hall
1209 University of Oregon
Eugene OR 97403-1209

(541) 346-3635

Editor
Allyson Griffith

Design
Barbara Opplinger,
Creative Publishing

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