

THE SPAN REVIEW

Student Planners Action Network

Volume 1

Department of Geography, Planning & Environment, East Carolina University

Fall 2018

GREETINGS

During the 2017-2018 academic year, the Urban and Regional Planning program was active in promoting the Planning program within and outside ECU communities, recruiting students for majors, minors, and the graduate certificate program, and building a stronger network with alumni. We successfully achieved what we hoped to in every aspect with fantastic support from alumni, faculty and staff members, students, and our student organization (SPAN).

For the first time since fall 2012, the number of students in the major grew (72 percent growth rate). Our general education courses were offered every semester introducing planning to more than 200 students at ECU. There were many actions in the program last year, and we have tried to showcase as many as possible in this newsletter. The Pirate Planners are strong! Please stay connected!

Misun Hur, Ph.D., Director



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Photo credit @ Tom Rickenbach



PLANNING PROGRAM LIVES ECU'S MOTTO – TO SERVE

By Anuradha Mukherji

The Urban and Regional Planning program embodies East Carolina University's (ECU) motto – servire, 'to serve'. Student projects in the program often work with real world clients and address pressing community needs, thus serving as a model for community outreach that aligns closely with ECU's mission for public service. In Spring 2018, the Land Use Planning course (PLAN 4065) taught by Dr. Anuradha Mukherji teamed with the Mid-East Commission as its primary client to work on creating community development vision plans for eight small towns across eastern North Carolina.

The Mid-East Commission put forward the idea of creating vision plans for small towns that dot the five counties it serves. Based in Washington, North Carolina, the Mid-East Commission is a non-profit that provides planning services to local governments. It serves Tier 1 counties (the poorest counties) in eastern North Carolina including Martin, Bertie, Pitt, Beaufort and Hertford. The impetus for the project came from the reality that most funding agencies require that communities they invest in have a vision plan. Having some type of plan, vision or direction for the community indicates that the community is committed to a set of development goals, which in turn helps them attract resources for specific projects down the road. The towns themselves do not have the capacity for creating such vision plans. This is where the planning program came in.

To be continued >> page 7

Life as a Planner

By Bo Duncan, 1975 Graduate



Hello fellow Pirates!

The SPAN editors asked me to share a bit about my career in planning, suggesting some topics to discuss. Originally from Maryland, I came to ECU the Fall of 1971 and, after a bumpy start, decided to pursue a degree in geography. Entering my junior year, I

wondered toward what careers I could apply a geography degree. A classmate mentioned something called “planning,” and that many local governments had planning offices. Thinking I’d have a better chance of getting a job if my degree aligned with a specific occupation, geography became my minor as I pursued a major in Urban & Regional Planning, graduating with the BS degree in Spring, 1975.

Returning home, I worked a year for a consulting engineer. In 1976, I got my first planning job with Prince William County, VA, coordinating the review of site plans and subdivision plats. I’m glad my career started in the current planning area as it enabled me to work with people in both the public and private sectors involved with day to day land use and development activities. As development often raises issues that have a broad community impact, I learned that comprehensive plans need to address changing impacts resulting from development, as well as encourage and facilitate proper growth. My planning responsibilities grew as my career progressed in Prince William County, and in subsequent planning positions with Wake County, NC, and Jefferson County, AL.

I feel my greatest contribution to planning in each of these jurisdictions was creating relationships with staff in other land development related agencies, with whom my office worked to design and implement electronic systems to manage our common development application, tracking and permitting processes, making them more user-friendly and streamlined. These improvements helped the public better navigate the bureaucracy and made our internal operations more efficient and accountable.

Two significant advances in planning I’ve witnessed since my career began are the development and implementation of technology to manage planning processes and data, and the more recent trend toward sustainable, environmentally considerate development and growth. Nothing was done electronically in 1976; everything (such as permits, records, and files) was paper. While I learned to use computers and GIS over time as they became available, I’m certain their use is now integrated into planning curricula. I’ve also seen efforts to achieve sustainable development undertaken in communities through implementing new or updated planning concepts and regulations (such as smart growth, mixed use development, and low impact development). I participated in such an effort in Alabama.

Understanding and knowing how to apply GIS and computer technologies to planning are critical skills new planners should possess; they are commonly sought by potential employers. Oth-

ers include good writing, public speaking, and leadership skills. These skills aren’t specifically taught, so you may have to develop them on your own. Keep in mind that you’ll be competing with new grads for jobs as you start your career. Since you’ll likely have taken most of the same courses as other grads, employers will look for things that distinguish one applicant from another. Demonstrating these skills may provide the edge you need to get hired.

Here are a few career related suggestions I was asked to provide. If you intend to pursue a masters degree, consider doing so as soon as possible after you graduate. After graduating and returning home, I immediately enrolled in the Master of Planning program offered locally by the University of Virginia. I got my degree while working full time in about 4 years taking one class a semester. I’m very glad I did this early in my career. Also, being AICP certified wasn’t necessarily essential 40 years ago, so I never pursued certification. I now see certification being preferred, if not required, in job postings, so consider pursuing that as well. Next, have a backup plan in case changes occur at your place of employment that are not to your advantage. I went through some type of reorganization or reduction in force in each jurisdiction where I worked. When not in planning, I worked in the wireless communication industry, identifying host sites for cellular facilities, negotiating property leases, and obtaining the necessary zoning and permits. Finally, you’ll likely be someone’s supervisor someday. While being a team leader is rewarding, personnel issues are often more difficult to deal with than planning issues. My supervisory training was on the job, with some guidance provided by my supervisors and the organizations for whom I worked. Although guided by organizational personnel procedures, as a supervisor you’ll still need to develop your own management style. Perhaps good advice to start is to identify the management style you respond best to and try to emulate it.

In closing, I was asked to say what urban planning is to me. From my experiences, planning was the effort I undertook to achieve an intended goal, the relationships I developed along the way, and using what I learned at the end to improve upon and repeat the effort for the next activity. Not very deep or fancy, but effective.

Good luck in your planning careers, and GO PIRATES!!



Mr. Bo Duncan during the graduation ceremony, 1975

Community Development in a Nutshell

By Niki Jones

Assistant Director, Housing & Neighborhoods
City of Raleigh



I am the Assistant Director of the City of Raleigh's Housing and Neighborhoods Department. I spent 11 years with the City of Greenville where I served in multiple capacities – including Land Use, Economic Development, and Community Development. After my 11 year career as an administrator there, I accepted a position with the City of Raleigh.

In my current role, I oversee the City's Affordable Housing initiatives and the Community Development Division. I currently serve on the board of the American Planners Associations North Carolina Chapter (APA-NC) and the North Carolina Community Development Association (NCCDA). I received a B.S in Urban and Regional Planning from East Carolina University, and my M.P.A from East Carolina University. In addition, I am a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

My average day at work has changed pretty dramatically since my first job as a Code Enforcement Officer. I went from enforcing codes, reviewing plans, administering programs, and writing Requests for Proposal to spending my days overseeing projects, completing performance evaluations, strategic planning, and preparing for City Council meetings.

I have been fortunate enough to have worked on many projects that are related to the planning profession. I have worked on land use, community development, and economic development projects. As an intern with the City of Greenville, me and another student completed an existing land use study. Over the course of 4 months, he and I manually surveyed every parcel within the city limits and the extra territorial jurisdiction. That survey is still used today. Also while in Greenville, I administered the City's Small Business Plan Competition Grant. This program is still in existence today and has helped over 20 businesses gain access to funds that many small business lack. That program was the recipient of the Governor's Innovative Small Business Community Award in 2011. A current project that I am working on and proud of is the East College Park project in Raleigh. The City is acting as the developer of 98 single-family lots and 51 town homes for affordable homeownership. In addition, the City provided gap funding of over \$9M to finance over 300 affordable rental units. The project is part of a HUD designated Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA). This project promotes mixed-income homeownership and rental housing. Over the course of 2 years, my team and I have managed a \$4M infrastructure project, the selection of a rental developer, the selection of six (6) homebuilders, and we are currently facilitating home construction. This neighborhood is less than a half a mile from downtown Raleigh. This project has been high profile and very political.

My Planning Path

By Ben Howell, AICP, CZO

Long Range Planning Manager
Town of Morrisville



While I had a bit of a circuitous path to the Planning Program at ECU, once I began my journey I never looked back. When I started at ECU, I was convinced I wanted to study biology and become a doctor; which soon transformed into wanting to study ecology and work in a conservation nonprofit. After struggling with some of my science classes, I started to discuss other degree and career options with my mother, and she suggested the Planning Program – she even set up an appointment to talk to one of the professors in the Planning Program about changing my major to Planning. Once I switched majors to Planning, I found that I truly enjoyed the coursework and knew that I had found my career path.

As graduation neared, I began applying for planning jobs, primarily in eastern North Carolina. As my job search stretched through the summer following graduation, I began to widen my job search and ultimately applied for planning jobs throughout the US. This led me to gaining an interview, and ultimately accepting, a job as a planner for Ravalli County in Montana. While I initially never thought I would leave North Carolina for a job, I found that moving to Montana was one of the best experiences I could have imagined. Since I had never traveled to Montana and did not have any family or friends there, it gave me an opportunity to start fresh with my first full-time job out of college. The job in Montana gave me an opportunity to learn some of the aspects of “real-world” planning, reviewing subdivisions and working on a new zoning ordinance. As my first year there was ending, I decided I wanted to get back to North Carolina and started searching for planning jobs in the state, again focusing on the eastern areas. After searching and applying to jobs for a couple of months, I accepted a job working for the Town of Plymouth in northeastern North Carolina on the Roanoke River. In Plymouth, I was the sole planner for the Town, and learned how to do everything from zoning enforcement of minimum housing standards.

After working in Plymouth for almost 18 months, I decided it was time to change jobs again to continue to advance my planning career. In addition, I also decided I wanted to move to a metropolitan area, so I centered my search on the Triangle area. That led me to working for Chatham County, where I started as a Planner and was able to move up to a Senior Planner position after several years. It was my time in Chatham County that I was able to work on writing Ordinances and gained experience working on transportation planning. That experience was instrumental in my next job move to Morrisville as the Town's Transportation Planner. Over my 5+ years in Morrisville, I learned more about transportation and regional planning, was given opportunities to apply for several transportation grants (ultimately winning almost \$10 million for Town transportation projects),

and ultimately promoted into my current position as Long Range Planning Manager. As Long Range Planning Manager, I continue to manage transportation planning for the Town and participate in regional planning, but I also get to work on other long-range planning projects, including the Town's upcoming update to our Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

One of the most important things that I have done that has helped in my job searches is to get involved and volunteer with APA-NC, the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association.

Volunteering with APA-NC has allowed me to expand my professional network, and given me opportunities to work on conferences and other workshops. I started as the Young Planners Group Chair for the Chapter, where I was able to work with other young planners (both professionals and students) to get involved in the Association. I was also able to work with the National APA organization on a new Guidebook and participated in webinars for other state or area chapters interested in starting YPG groups. More recently, I have served as the Vice President for Chapter Development, where I organized the annual NC Planning Conferences, and recently began my term as President-Elect of the Chapter.

As you think about entering the planning field, I would encourage you not to limit your search to a certain area if possible – as mentioned above, I never thought I would move so far away from my friends and family for my first job, but I am extremely thankful that I did. Another important point I would make is to get involved with professional organizations to increase your professional network and give you an opportunity to give back to the Planning Profession. If you would like to get involved with APA-NC or have any other questions, please don't hesitate ask me.



Photo credit @ Misun Hur

PLANNING AMBASSADORS

*DO YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED?
CAN YOU GIVE A LITTLE OF YOUR TIME?
IF THE ANSWER IS YES...
YOU CAN BE AN ECU PLANNING AMBASSADOR!*

A Planning Ambassador would carry out at least THREE engagement activities.

WHAT ARE THE ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES?

- ☼ Give a talk on 'Planning & Planners' at your local Community College
- ☼ Attend a 'Student Planners Action Network' (SPAN) meeting at ECU
- ☼ Carry out APA-NC's 'PlanIt Kids!' activity at a local school in your community
- ☼ Attend an ECU Open House with planning faculty and students
- ☼ Provide internship opportunity to ECU Planning students

Our Planning Ambassadors will be recognized through our annual newsletter, on our departmental Facebook page and during the SPAN banquet. If you would like to be a Planning Ambassador, please contact Dr. Anuradha Mukherji (MUKHERJIA@ECU.EDU, 252-328-5357).

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT ECU PLANNING IN YOUR COMMUNITIES.

Alums who served as Ambassadors 2017-2018

Cameron Braddy, Town of Williamston

Catherine Grimm, Town of Tarboro

Chad Sary, Town of Knightdale

Chip Russell, Town of Wake Forest

Cynthia Jenkins, Edgecombe County

Eli Johnson, Pitt County

Holly White, Town of Nags Head

Kyle Breuer, Pender County

Michelle Nance, Central Carolina Council of Governments, Charlotte

Gilbert Combs, City of Wilmington

Eric Vitale, Fayetteville Area MPO

*** We greatly appreciate your contributions to the program! Thank you. ***

ECU PLANNING ALUMNI ADVISORY BOARD

By Mark Garner

Greetings from the Planning Alumni Advisory Board!

The Alumni Advisory Board was formed many years ago when the Planning Program was a separate Department in the College of Engineering and Technology. Its formation was crucial in the initial accreditation of the program by the Planning Accreditation Board, and has served to be instrumental in numerous re-accreditation processes since that time. Did you know that your Planning Program is one of only two nationally accredited Planning undergraduate degree granting programs east of the Mississippi River (the other being at Ball State University)? And that it is one of less than 20 in all of North America? As a result, you should take extra special pride in that piece of paper called your diploma when you receive it! Employers like to recruit accredited degree students.

The Alumni Advisory Board consists of ten members, eight of which must be ECU Planning alumni. Two may be non-alumni but practicing in planning or a related field (i.e. engineering, landscape architecture, architecture, etc.). Members serve a three-year term and are eligible for re-appointment. The Board meets four times each year, receiving updates from the Program Director and/or Department Chair. Members provide strategic advice to the Program and Department on fundamental issues including types of coursework that are practical for planning careers and stu-

dent recruitment, as well as on-campus/off-campus support of the program and its students.

The Planning Advisory Board initiated efforts several years ago which led to the \$50,000 endowment of the Planning Alumni Scholarship, now offering up to \$2,000 annually to a deserving Planning student. This is the largest scholarship set up specifically for Planning students.

Finally, members of the Planning Advisory Board, in addition to other alumni, routinely participate as observers of Planning student capstone project presentations, providing constructive criticism to students on their project presentations.

The Urban Planning Alumni Advisory Board is an engaged way to stay involved with the Program, faculty and students. After graduation, as you begin your career, consider meaningful ways that are relevant to you as to how you may stay engaged with the Planning Program and East Carolina University. Perhaps one day you will be interested in applying to serve on the Planning Advisory Board. You can do so by notifying the Program Director. If you appreciate today the opportunities you receive as a Planning student, know that someone else will also appreciate a similar opportunity after you have graduated.

Go Pirates! And Go Planning!



Planning Alumni Scholarship

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

February 2018

- James Browder, AICP
- Mark Garner, AICP
- Dale Holland, AICP, **Chairman**
- Merrill Flood, **Recording Secretary**
- Dwane Jones, PhD
- Lee Padrick
- Seth Laughlin
- Mark Locklear
- James Rhodes, AICP, **Vice-Chairman**
- Durk Tyson, PE
- Misun Hur, PhD, *ex-officio*

ECU PLANNER-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM

By Misun Hur & Anuradha Mukherji



*Mr. Merrill Flood
2018 Planner-In-Residence*

As a result of growing interest among students for real-world experiences, the Urban and Regional Planning program has undertaken several initiatives over the years to meet this demand including inviting planners for guest talks in planning courses; as jury members for senior capstone projects; as participants in guided site visits; hosting seminars;

and encouraging students to apply for internships.

This year saw the launch of a new program called 'Planner-in-Residence' (PIR). The PIR invites an experienced practitioner to teach a planning course for the entire semester. The objective of the program is to provide an opportunity for planning students to interact with and learn from the PIR in an academic setting. Mr. Merrill Flood joined in Fall 2018 as our first PIR. He graduated from ECU with a BS in Urban and Regional Planning in 1987. He also completed a Municipal Administration certificate in 1996 from the Institute of Government, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Mr. Flood is a true Pirate Planner. Starting as an Enforcement Planner I in 1988 at the City of Greenville, he was promoted during subsequent years to Planner I followed by Development Administrator Planner II, Senior Planner,

Deputy Director of Planning and Community Development, Interim Director of Planning and Community Development and eventually heading the Community Development Department as the Director of Community Development. He retired as the Assistant City Manager of the City of Greenville in 2017. Mr. Flood has witnessed Greenville's planning history over a period of 30 years of dedicated work as a professional planner for the city. He currently serves as the Director of Planning and Development at ECU.

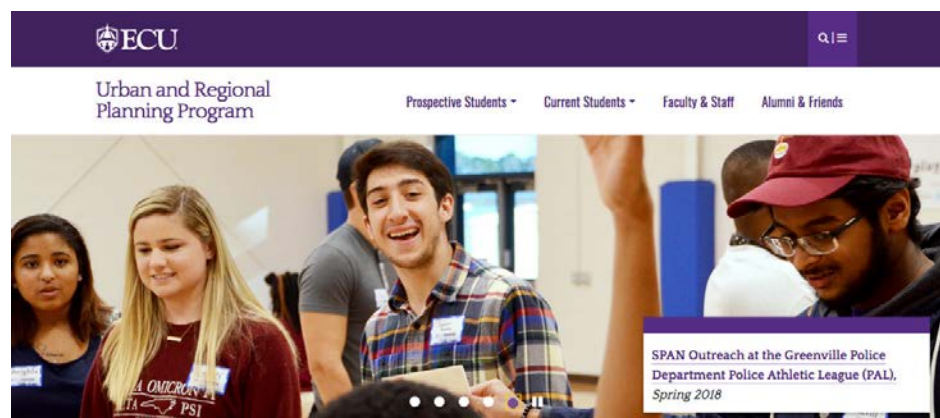
Mr. Flood has received numerous recognitions for his work and leadership, including the 2010 Housing North Carolina Award for Affordable Rental Housing Project Development and the 2002 and 2006 Housing North Carolina Award for Best Single-Family Affordable Housing Production.

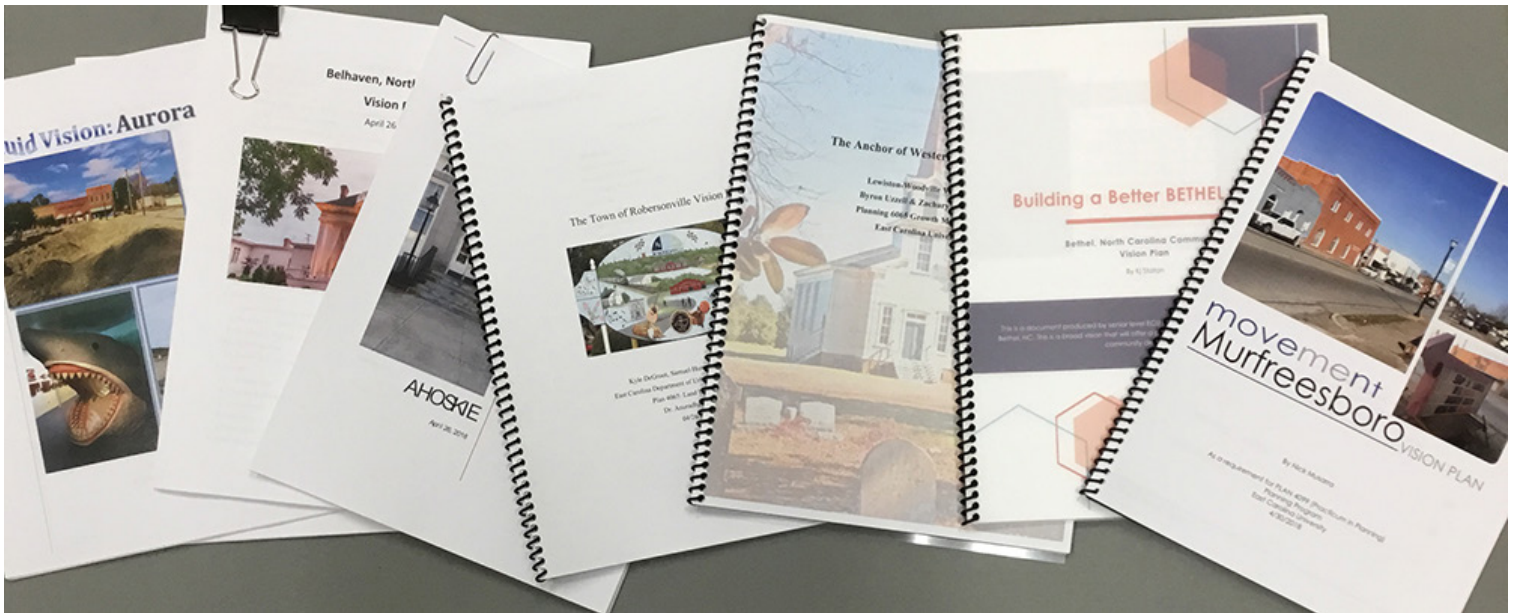
As a PIR at ECU, Mr. Flood teaches a planning general education course in social science called Global Cities (PLAN 2030). This course provides students with an introductory exposure to urban planning principles and the social context within which professional planners must navigate in their prospective careers. His knowledge and experience in community building and housing, and his leadership and keen understanding of political dynamics as a planner is of immense value to our planning students.

We are excited about the program and extend a warm welcome to Mr. Flood as our first Planner-In-Residence.

Go Pirates!

Visit our new website at
<https://planning.ecu.edu/>





Final reports submitted to the Mid-East Commission, NC

>> Continued from page 1

In most of the small towns, much of the small retail (the mom & pop shops) have gone out of business as retail has been diverted to bypass and other busy thoroughfares over the past several decades, and there is not much life in the downtown areas. Hence, students focused on the primary question of how to bring the downtowns back to life in the project communities.

Eight communities were targeted for the project, including Belhaven, Ahoskie, Town of Robersonville, Bethel, Aurora, Lewiston-Woodville, Murfreesboro and Grifton. Students worked individually and in groups of two or three to collect relevant data, carry out visual documentation of their project site, review related plans and policies, speak to community members and stakeholders, and conduct site condition analysis. As the towns did not have a clearly articulated problem, a significant part of student efforts were to define the priority planning problem(s) to be addressed. Based on the data and site condition analysis, each group identified the most pressing needs in their project towns and put forward a set of developmental goals and recommendations to address those needs. The final deliverable for each group was a vision plan document for their community and presentation of the plan to the Mid-East Commission, community members from project towns and other professional planners.

The project served as a positive experience for the students as they engaged in a real world problem, gained a deeper understanding of planning through practice, and contributed

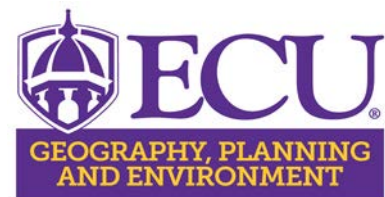
in a meaningful way to the future of each of the eight project towns.

In addition, because the targeted communities are representative of rural North Carolina, students specifically gained insights on planning practice in a rural setting.

The student efforts and their final documents were well received by the Mid-East Commission as evidenced by this note from Jamie Heath, Planner at Mid-East Commission: “We were impressed by the work the students did in such a short time. We look forward to future partnerships”. The Mid-East Commission continues its partnership with the ECU planning program this semester and is currently working with the planning capstone studio class on park and recreation projects for two communities in eastern North Carolina.

As a program we are proud of our students and their commitment to serve the eastern North Carolina region through projects that address planning needs in local communities.

Partnerships:



PROGRAM INVOLVEMENT DURING THE APA-NC CONFERENCE

September 26, 2017

The ECU Planning Program was involved in the American Planning Association North Carolina Chapter annual conference (September 26-29, 2017) at the Greenville Convention Center. Many events were held during the conference. The Planning Program had an exhibit table to showcase our program and students' achievements. We hosted an ECU Alumni Reception on campus to welcome our alumni and to strengthen the networks between alumni and ECU. The Planning Alumni Advisory Board members recognized Dr. Mulatu Wubneh's 38-years of legacy at ECU during the APA-NC luncheon.



Table Talk_Chad Sary



Table Talk_Chris Lawson



Table Talk_Eli Johnson



Table Talk_Eric Vitale



Table Talk_Gilbert Combs



Table Talk_John Stowe



ECU Table & Exhibit

SPAN TABLE TALK SERIES

Fall 2017 - Spring 2018

To learn from professional planners in different specialties, regions, scales, and organizations, we initiated the SPAN Table Talk Series during the 2017-2018 academic year. Starting with a resume talk offered by the ECU Career Center, SPAN invited five planners (alumni) from all over North Carolina. Students had an excellent opportunity to hear directly from experienced planners. We greatly appreciate all speakers for taking the time to come and talk to students!

Invited Speakers:

- **John Stowe** from ECU Career Center - Resume Workshop
- **Gilbert Combs**, Associate Planner of the City of Wilmington - Working at a public vs. private sector
- **Chris Lawson**, Planner, Pitt County Planning - A day of life as a County planner
- **Eric Vitale**, Transportation Planner of the Fayetteville Area MPO - Roles of a transportation planner and MPO
- **Chad Sary**, Assistant Town Manager of the Town of Knightdale - Career trajectory and professional experiences
- **Eli Johnson**, Senior Planner, GIS coordinator of Pitt County - GIS specialist and advice for students who seek for an internship



Dr. Wubneh recognition during APA-NC luncheon



ECU Reception



PLANNING STUDIO CLASS PRESENTATION

December 5, 2017

Another successful Planning Studio (PLAN4096) presentation was led by Dr. Sangwoo “Marty” Sung. With the theme, “Purple to Green: Stormwater, green infrastructure, and retrofiting,” students developed a plan to retrofit areas on the East Carolina University campus for the purpose of stormwater mitigation. The team identified three key areas as a priority for stormwater management and completed analyses of three scenarios for each site.

The project won two awards: the RCAW Undergraduate Sustainability Poster category (3/29/18) and the 2018 North Carolina Marvin Collins Planning Award (9/13/18).

Students: Thomas Bradshaw, Kellen Long, Nick Musarra, Chloe Pearson, Jordan Reedy, and Kenneth Staton



DR. HUR RECOGNIZED DURING THE ANNUAL AMEXCAN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARDS

December 13, 2017

On Dec. 13th, the Association of Mexicans in North Carolina (AMEXCAN) held its sixth annual Community Leadership Awards at the Goess Student Center at Pitt Community College. Dr. Hur received the Research Partnership award, recognizing her work with the Hispanic and Latino community in eastern North Carolina since 2011.



SPAN OUTREACH AT THE GREENVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE (PAL) KIDS

January 19, 2018

As the first outreach action in Spring 2018 by the Student Planners’ Action Network (SPAN), eleven SPAN members visited the Greenville Police Department’s Police Athletic League (PAL) afterschool program on January 19, 2018. PAL is a youth crime prevention program that utilizes educational, athletic and recreational activities to create trust and understanding between police officers and youth (<http://www.greenvillenc.gov/government/police/community-policing/pal-police-athletic-league>). With a theme of “Building a safe neighborhood,” children enjoyed fun & educational planning activities with SPAN students.



APA-NC EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PANEL DISCUSSIONS

January 25, 2018

SPAN hosted a panel discussion with five professional planners. Mr. Niki Jones, Assistant Director of Housing and Neighborhoods in the City of Raleigh who serves as the president of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-NC) Education Outreach, organized the panel with Pirates! We appreciated all the questions and answers, stories shared and comments for aspiring future planners. Great group and audience!

Panel Members:

- JoSeth Bocook, Interim Planning Director, City of Rocky Mount
- Bryan Jones, Planning Director, Town of Winterville
- Ben Howell, Long Range Planning Manager, Town of Morrisville
- Patrick House, GIS Technician, City of Greenville
- Niki Jones, Assistant Director, Housing & Neighborhoods Department, City of Raleigh



SPAN VIDEO PRODUCTION

December 5, 2017

Co-produced by Sheighla Temple and Savannah Newbern, a video “Our Aspirations” was played during the 2018 SPAN Spring Banquet.

Access to the video at <https://planning.ecu.edu/2018/04/25/our-aspirations/>

Photo credit @ James Rhodes



PLANNING STUDENTS ATTEND THE APA-NC SECTION 5 WORKSHOP

March 16, 2018

Planning students attended the APA-NC Section 5 Workshop in Windsor, NC on March 16, 2018. The workshop had two sessions. The morning session focused on community resiliency. Presenters from Windsor and Princeville shared their approaches in the aftermath of major flooding events. The afternoon session focused on rural tourism development including off-site visits to the Cashie River Tree houses and the Roanoke-Cashie River Center/Roanoke River Partnership.



SPAN OUTREACH AT THE A TIME FOR SCIENCE EXPO 2018

March 27, 2018

Our students and faculty participated in the “A Time For Science Expo” at A Time for Science building on Dickinson Avenue on March 17, 2018, 11 am – 3 pm. Hundreds of children enjoyed hands-on activities, which included finding locations on a gigantic map of NC, planting basil seeds as the first step to Sustainable Urbanism, and making a tornado in a bottle. Students of SPAN and Geo Club led the activities.



BAREFOOT ON THE MALL

April 19, 2018

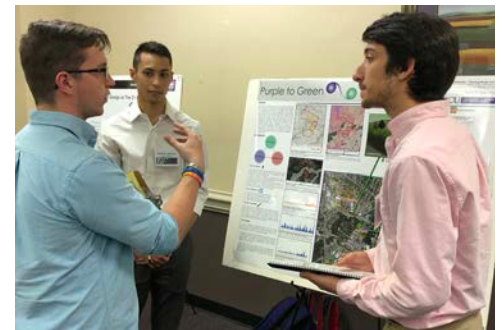
SPAN, GeoClub, and AMS (ECU Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society) participated in ECU’s 40th Barefoot on the Mall together on Thursday, April 19 on the ECU Mall. Thousands of students enjoyed music, food, fun activities, and networking.



RCAW PRESENTATION

March 28, 2018

Nick Musarra and Jordan Reedy presenting their poster during the ECU’s Research & Creative Achievement Week 2018 (RCAW). The team won the Undergraduate Sustainability Poster category on Wednesday.



SPAN OFFICERS

2017-2018

- President:** Nick Musarra
- Vice President:** Samuel Hunter
- Secretary:** Rebecca Mountz
- Treasurer:** Allen Mills
- Public Relations:** Sheighla Temple
- Events Lead:** Chloe Pearson
- Newsletter Editors:** William Stanton & Kevin Cheruvathoor

2018-2019

- President:** Samuel Hunter
- Vice President:** William Stanton
- Secretary:** Rebecca Mountz
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- Events Lead:** Chloe Pearson

2018 SPAN SPRING BANQUET

April 20, 2018

The 2018 SPAN Spring Banquet was held on Friday, April 20, 2018, 5-8 PM at ECU Croatan Green Room. Over 40 people including alumni, students, faculty, guests, and Dean Downs enjoyed the wonderful end-of-year celebration together. With alumni support, we raised a total of \$1,350 for the banquet, which resulted in \$650 extra funds for SPAN.

The event began with welcome speeches by Dr. Misun Hur, Interim Director of Planning, Dr. Thad Wasklewicz, Chair of

the Department of Geography, Planning, & Environment, Dr. William Downs, Dean of Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, and Mr. Dale Holland, Chair of the Planning Advisory Board. The keynote speaker, Mrs. Michelle Nance, AICP, Planning Director of Centralina Council of Governments, presented “Top Ten Key Planning Concepts that will Impact Your Career.” We also recognized graduating senior students, SPAN officers, alumni ambas-

sadors, and award recipients. Students showed a short video, which captured our Planning students’ aspirations (available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-Dg4c3DaB4w>). The event ended with Mr. Mark Garner’s closing remarks. Mr. Garner serves as Vice Chair of the ECU Alumni Association.

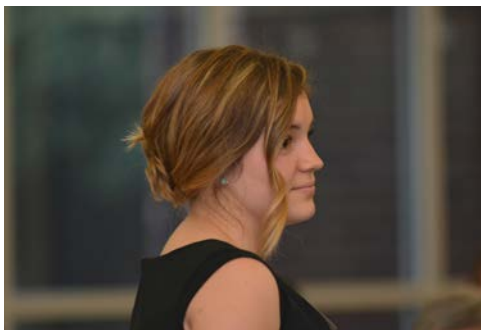


2018 Spring Banquet



SAVANNAH NEWBERN BEING SELECTED AS THE 2018 APA-NC SUMMER FELLOW

June 21, 2018



Savannah Newbern, sophomore ECU Planning major, was recently selected as a 2018 Summer Fellow by the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA-NC).

The APA-NC Fellowship Program was created to increase diversity in the planning profession by fostering increased interest among minority students and women in the field of urban planning. The fellowship period was from June 1 – Aug 30, 2018.



Mrs. Michelle Nance, the keynote speaker



Chloe Pearson, Senior student, is networking with an alumna

ECU PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWS

July 26, 2018

Founded in 2015, ECU's Public Service Fellows Program funded by the State Employees Credit Union Foundation places students with community partners each year.

Twenty-two students were selected for the PSF program this year. Four planning students were fellowship recipients: Jennifer Basil (Junior, major) with the Association of Mexicans in North Carolina, William Stanton (Junior, major) with Uptown Greenville, Allen Mills (Junior, major) with Sylvan Heights, and Madeline Tripp (Sophomore, minor).

William Stanton's fellowship story was featured by the ECU Office of Community Engaged Research with a title, "ECU intern planning Uptown's future" (<https://rede.ecu.edu/engagement/2018/07/26/ecu-intern-planning-uptowns-future/>).

Past fellowship recipients in our program.

- 2015: Gilbert Combs with Uptown Greenville
- 2016: Damiere Powell with Greene County and Andrew Strong with Uptown Greenville
- 2017: Kenneth Staton with the Chamber of Commerce in Windsor



Jennifer Basil, PSF fellow



William Stanton, PSF fellow

CO-TEACHING

Spring 2018 Semester

Throughout Spring 2018 semester, Ryan Purtle, transportation planner at the Greenville MPO co-taught PLAN4075/6075 Transportation Planning with Dr. Misun Hur.

Team teaching was successful in creating a balance between theory and practice.

Students had additional guest speakers who are key stakeholders in local transportation planning: i.e., Mr. Dominique Boyd from NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT), Mr. James Rhodes from Pitt County Planning, and Mr. Lamont Jackson from Greenville Area Transit (GREAT). We greatly appreciate all guest speakers and Mr. Ryan Purtle for their time and input for student success.



Ryan Purtle in PLAN4075

FARMVILLE GREENWAY PROJECT

Summer 2018

Dan Hemme is a graduate student who is working toward his graduate certificate in Development and Environmental Planning. He leads the Farmville Greenway Initiative project, a collaboration between ECU's Urban and Regional Planning program, the Department of Political Science and the Town of Farmville with Sheighla Temple and William Stanton, undergraduate Planning majors.

The project team hosted a stakeholder meeting and two public input sessions over the summer. They received enormous local support for greenways in Farmville, NC. They anticipate finalizing the greenway proposal in Fall 2018.



Public hearing session

ALUMNI UPDATES

Mrs. Michelle Nance was named the 2017 Woman of the Year by the Mecklenburg Times! She was one of the 50 Most Influential Woman, and was selected from this impressive group. Michelle was the keynote speaker for our 2018 SPAN Spring Banquet. Congratulations!!!

* Website - <http://mecktimes.com/50-most-influential-women/>

Mr. James "Skip" Browder passed away on June 21, 2018. With great love for the ECU Planning program, he served for many years on the ECU Planning Alumni Board, contributed to the ECU Planning Alumni Scholarship Endowment, and was supportive of students in many ways. Our sincere condolences to his family.

Do you have news to share with your fellow Planning alumni? A new job or a cool project? Email your story to Dr. Hur at hurmi@ecu.edu. We love to hear from you,

SUMMER INTERNSHIPS EVERYWHERE

Summer 2018

Our students had a busy summer working and learning through internships.

Anna Willis interned with the City of Greenville Police Athletic League (PAL) group. She minors in Criminal Justice.

Sam Hunter worked at the Laurel Hills Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department, the City of Raleigh, NC. His work included budgeting for the city's community centers.

William Stanton took two internships, at the Pitt County Planning Department and at Uptown Greenville as an ECU Public Service Fellow. He also participated in the Farmville Greenway Project led by Dan Hemme.

Allen Mill interned at the Sylvan Heights Bird Park with the education department. He interacted closely with the public through guided tours, summer camps, and outreach programs.

Emil Espinosa has been working as an intern in the Edgecombe County Planning Department.

Kenneth Staton had his second internship this summer with the Town of Bethel.



Anna Willis with the city of Greenville Police Athletic League (PAL)



Sam Hunter with other interns



Isaiah (front row, second from the right) attending a workshop on "Transdisciplinary Approaches to Disaster Response" in Omaha.

ISAIAH HIGGS "SURGE" SCHOLARSHIPS

By Isaiah Higgs

I am currently a graduate student in the Geography department while also pursuing a *Development and Environmental Planning Certificate*. During the Fall of 2017 I looked through a series of scholarships that suited my interest. To my surprise my advisor (Dr. Anuradha Mukherji) came across this scholarship during her own research. I quickly applied and was selected. Surge is a scholarship that stands for *Minority from Under-Represented Groups in Engineering and the Social Sciences (SURGE)*. Thirteen scholars were selected through a nation-wide competitive application process.

The scholarship has two purposes which are to promote underrepresented groups that are racial and ethnic minorities in STEM and hazards field. It also focuses on the disproportionate impacts of disasters on under-served racial and ethnic minorities. SURGE is funded by NSF (the National Science Foundation) and is currently in its pilot stage. I was honored to receive this scholarship because its purpose is my passion. It is a two year scholarship for graduate students. Scholarship recipients attend a series of workshops, conferences, mentoring events, and field work opportunities.

STUDENT BIO

*"Hello!"
From eight planning students.*



My name is *Anna Willis*, and I am from Edinboro Pennsylvania. I have two younger brothers, one is 15 and the other is 5 (I know, HUGE age difference)! I am a Junior Urban and Regional Planning major and am pursuing a Criminal Justice minor as well. I decided to be a Planner after I became more educated and aware of the issues our population growth is causing within cities worldwide, and I wanted to be part of the change needed to sustain this growth. Being from an extremely small town many people stay in the same place their whole lives, and I knew I needed to get out and explore while I can. Deciding to come to ECU was a great decision for me, and I am excited about my future here and also excited to see where life takes me with my degree in the field of Planning.

EDITORS' NOTE

We hope you enjoy the content that we have provided, it has been a busy yet fascinating year for the planning department. We have enjoyed every second of working on this newsletter, meeting wonderful people along the way. Putting this together has been an honor. Happy reading Go Pirates!

- Co-editors William Stanton & Kevin Cheruathoor

My name is **Heather Moseeso**. I am currently a Junior from Northern Virginia, majoring in Urban and Regional Planning with a minor in Political Science. My interests in design and maps led me to this major. At ECU I am a member of Phi Eta Sigma, a national honor society, and a sister of Alpha Omicron.



My name is **Isaiah Higgs** I am from Durham North Carolina. I am currently president of Geo Club and a SURGE scholar. I am getting my master's degree in Geography. I got my undergraduate degree in Human Geography at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. I have too many hobbies to count, but I enjoy drawing, traveling, cooking, and play videos. A few years ago, I didn't know anything about urban planning, I didn't even know that it was a profession but once I decided to get my masters I knew that I wanted to get higher knowledge in Geography while working with people and communities. So, after a lot of web searching, I found Urban planning. Hopefully, when I finish my schooling at ECU I can get a job in government or teaching.

My name is **Kevin Cheruvathoor**, I was originally born in New York, and moved to North Carolina around 2007. Currently I am a Junior at ECU majoring in Urban and Regional Planning, with a minor in Architectural Design. I find planning within a community and the design aspect of things to be very interesting. For extracurricular activities, I'm involved with SPAN, serving as an editor for the newsletter as well as the Treasurer. Within SPAN I have done volunteering and attended many table talks which helped me gain a better understanding of this major. Some of my leisure activities include drawing, hanging out with friends, eating food, and traveling.



My name is **Becca Mountz**, and I am a sophomore from Raleigh, NC and I came to ECU specifically for the Urban and Regional Planning program. I am also minoring in Geography and getting my GIS Certificate here at ECU, and I plan on going to graduate school. Outside of class, I am on the executive board for my sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha, and I like to organize service projects around the city of Greenville.



My name is **William Stanton**, I am from High Point, NC. I am a Senior studying Urban and Regional Planning with a Minor in Geography. Outside of my studies, I am active in the ECU Planning community, serving as the Editor of the SPAN newsletter and Vice President. I am also a general member in the GeoClub. One thing that I love about these two clubs is volunteering, I feel it is my duty to give back to the community surrounding me. I consider myself proficient in ArcGIS and Sketchup. I plan to further those skills pursuing a dual Masters degree in Urban Design and Architecture. My career interests include Environmental Planning, Urban Design, Green Design Architecture and Landscape Architecture. In my leisure time I enjoy playing golf, traveling, eating at local restaurants, recreational activities, and playing with my dog.



Photo credit @ ECU

My name is **Samuel Hunter** and I am currently a Senior at ECU. I am also the President of the Student Planners Action Network. Joining the planning program was one of the greatest choices I've ever made. My goal one day is to be able to create a sustainable world for everyone and incorporate urban planning in every country and city.

NC-APA Outstanding Student Award
AICP Outstanding Student Award

Nicholas A. Musarra



The Planning Program faculty at ECU unanimously nominated Nick Musarra for both the AICP Outstanding Student Award and the NCAPA Outstanding Student Award last year. These awards recognize outstanding achievement in the study of planning and commitment to the profession.

Nick worked as an intern for Uptown Greenville in Spring 2017, where he gained experience with community development efforts as well as aiding in improvements to the uptown parking strategy. Nick completed another internship with Kimley-Horn & Associates in Charlotte during Summer 2017 where he worked with the planning team on numerous city and community transportation plans. His interests include transportation and mobility planning and sustainable design.

Nick received the 2017 Urban & Regional Planning Alumni Scholarship and was nominated for the 2018 Robert H. Wright Alumni Leadership Award. He graduated in Spring 2018 and currently works for WSP USA as an assistant planner.

Urban Planning Alumni Scholarship

Jennifer Basil



The 2018 Urban Planning Alumni Scholarship was awarded to Jennifer Basil. This scholarship is competitively awarded to one student during an academic year for outstanding scholarship and dedication to the profession of planning. Along with academic excellence, Jennifer has been deeply involved in community activities through the Gamma Sigma Sigma National Service Sorority. She was also a SECU Public Service Fellow during Summer 2018 through which she interned with Amexcan, a non-profit organization that works with Latino immigrant communities. Jennifer aspires to be a community planner at a non-profit organization. She is greatly appreciative of being awarded this scholarship and of the hard work the professors put into the planning program to make it such a rewarding degree.

John C. Ralph Scholarship

Ani Kerjilian



Ani Kerjilian is one of the recipients of the 2018 John C. Ralph scholarship. This scholarship recognizes outstanding achievement in the study of planning and commitment to the profession. Ani volunteers at community events in Raleigh and aspires to be a historic preservation planner.



John C. Ralph Scholarship

Kyle DeGroot



Kyle DeGroot is one of the recipients of the 2018 John C. Ralph scholarship. This scholarship recognizes outstanding achievement in the study of planning and commitment to the profession. Kyle aspires to be a community planner and has special interest in real estate.



GPE award recipients with Mr. Craig Ralph during the 7th Annual Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Science Luncheon Award Ceremony on September 21, 2018. Mr. Ralph was recognized for his continued support through the John C. Ralph Scholarship fund. (Photo credit @ Thad Wasklewicz)

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