“What do you do for a living?”

I can see all of you cringing right now. How many times have you tried to describe what it is we do as planners in one sentence? As you watch the person’s eyes glaze over, internally you wonder, why is this so difficult? So, how about the Buffalo Bills this year?

At some level, we are all very lucky to be in a profession with great diversity of work and opportunities. We touch, whether directly or indirectly, every aspect of our society, environment and economy. Admit it; that is pretty cool. However, because of the great diversity of talented professionals that call themselves planners, we also lack the recognition of our colleagues.

At the Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association conference this year in Rochester, New York, an interactive discussion was held to determine how we, as members of the Upstate Chapter, should elevate the stature of our profession in a collaborative and consistent manner. The discussion tapped into a broad array of ideas, issues and concerns.

When I think back about the event, it is almost a magical beginning to a great joke: An accountant walked into a room full of planners and asked, what do you do for a living? The first planner said…..

In all seriousness, we had a room full of planners talking about the status of our profession. In my career, I have not been involved in such an invigorating discussion about what we do, what we can do to elevate our status and ways we can enhance the public’s understanding of our profession.

Key topics included a consistent professional identity and brand, greater involvement in community initiatives, enhanced advertising, diversity within our ranks, the skill sets that make us unique, planners as the catalyst of the future, planners as the drivers of sustainability, licensure, improved AICP function and stature, non-planners doing planning work, quasi-governmental and educational entities competing with the private sector and improved collaboration with our design and legal partners.

Whew. That is a lot to discuss in one hour and, I believe, it is the reason why we need to continue this dialogue in a structured fashion. At the end of our discussion many participants in the group agreed this is worth further refinement at the local level within each Section with reports provided to the Upstate Chapter Board. Ideally, the Board would then prepare a series of recommendations for further discussion at the 2009 Chapter Conference in Albany.

I would like to start the discussion by stating that we should focus on four key questions.

• How can we elevate the stature and understanding of our profession in New York State?
• Is licensure a worthwhile endeavor or can we work with APA national to enhance AICP?
• What is it that we do, or how we do it, that is unique to our profession?
• Finally, how can Upstate APA better facilitate the recognition and promotion of our profession?

Continued on page 3
President’s Message
Mike Long, AICP, RLA

This is my last official correspondence as President of the New York Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association. Over the last 5 years I have had the privilege of representing our chapter at the National APA Chapter Presidents Council (CPC).

Over these years, the organization has continued to grow stronger in many ways. Our membership continues to grow and most notably, the annual chapter conference has continued to get better each and every year. Starting next year, we will have a dedicated part-time person to assist with the day to day chapter functions that our "all volunteer board" needs help with. We have come together as a group in dealing with the Certification Maintenance program, which ensures that all AICP members keep up to date. We are all still amazed that Ellen Parker, AICP our Professional Development Officer is still here as she just began with us when this hit us.

We are also losing a few committed board members as the new ones come on in January. I have to say "thanks" to Rocky Ferraro, AICP for his decades of service to our board. Rocky started our as the Capital District representative and continued with almost every role on our committee. We were able to surprise him this year at the annual awards luncheon with the presentation of the Michael J. Krasner Memorial Professional Planner Award as he so richly deserves. Hopefully we can keep him involved, such as the master of ceremonies of the annual awards program.

George McKibbon, AICP, the Canadian Officer, who most likely travels the furthest to attend our quarterly meetings and conferences along with Kristen Mark Hughes, the Education Officer, are also at the end of their terms. Jean Waterbury, AICP will also finally get away from us on the board. Jean has served as many positions over decades and is the outgoing Past President. Hopefully Jean will continue to help out as the chapter webmaster. They will all be missed.

Judy Breselor, AICP will assume the Presidency next year. She has held many board positions including Director of Legislative Affairs, Professional Development Officer (PDO) and Vice-President. Judy has also spent much time on various committees with the National APA organizations. She is a wealth of knowledge, tremendous perspective on the major issues and will be a great representative for our chapter. I wish her well. I will continue next year as the past president and help out when I can.

Long, who stepped down as chapter president in December 2008, is the city administrator in Poughkeepsie.

Continued on next page

President’s Message
Judith Breselor, AICP

As many of you know, I stepped in as chapter president on January 1 and would like to thank the volunteers who serve on our board - working many hours on behalf of our membership. The board is comprised of elected officers and representation from the five sections within the Upstate New York Chapter (Capital, Central, Southern Tier, Genesee Finger Lakes, and Western); as well as the student representatives.

I would like to thank Mike Long for all of the work he did as president. Mike was a board member for a number of years, first as the Central Section director, then as treasurer and most recently as president. Although Mike had not sought the duties of president, he volunteered after the untimely death of Michael Krasner in 2003. He became active with the Chapter President Council. I am grateful that to know that Mike will be helping me in his new position on the board as Past President.

The chapter board wishes to thank Rocky Ferraro who is stepping down this year. Rocky has been the face, voice and master of ceremonies at the chapter awards banquets for many years. Rocky held several positions on the board including: director of legislative affairs, treasurer, vice-president and for a short time was the acting president. Rocky was this year’s recipient of the Michael J. Krasner Distinguished Leader - Professional Planner award; long overdue for Rocky. Although Rocky is off the board I believe that he will always be there to help whenever he is called upon.

Kris Hughes has stepped down as Education Officer this term. Kris is the newly elected President of the New York State County Planning Directors. We understand that Kris has been actively involved in many statewide and national planning endeavors and would like to thank him for sharing all of his experiences with the chapter board.

George McKibbon was our first Canadian Representative in 2005. Former Chapter President Mike Krasner thought it important for our Canadian members to have representation on our chapter board. George has kept our board apprised of the many issues in Canada and formed a great working relationship with those members. After several years of service to the Board, George is stepping down, we have learned a lot from George and thank him for his dedication.

The Chapter Board would like to say a special thank you to Jean Waterbury who has been maintaining our Chapter website. Jean, who is a former Chapter President, has volunteered many hours posting articles, information on CM opportunities, jobs and a wide variety of planning issues. I would encourage you to check our website frequently for planning news and updates. (www.nyupstateplanning.org)

The Chapter Board will have a few new officers this year; they are Andy Raus (Education Officer), Leigh Whyte (Canadian Representative), Doug Greene (Director of Legislative Affairs) Sandy Misiewicz (Chapter Treasurer) and Mark Castiglone (Member at Large). I look forward to working with Gary Palumbo as the Chapter Vice President; Ellen Parker as Chapter Professional Development Officer; Elaine Jardine, County Planners representative; Diane Carlton returns as Director of Public Affairs and Mike Kayes will be the Planning Official Development Officer. We are thankful that Jason Heremza once again ran for Chapter Secretary and has seemed to juggle not only all of the duties as-
President’s Message

signed to this board position, but also keeping us apprised of all of the activities in the Genesee Finger Lakes Section.

The Chapter board is also comprised of the Section Directors and Student Representatives from our Planning Schools who attend the Chapter Board as Executive Board members.

This year we are also pleased to have hired Tanya Zwahlen as Chapter support staff. Tanya is an AICP planner with a wide range of experience and will help the board with its many organizational tasks. As a certified planner she understand the needs of our membership and will help us immensely.

As many of you are aware our newsletter has become a very professional publication, George Homsy has performed the duties of editor for our newsletter and has kept us up to date on many of our planning initiatives.

Breselor is the executive director of the New York Planning Federation.

Our Profession, Our Future

Continued from page 1

As Kris Hughes, director of planning in Ontario County, stated, “We had this discussion about 30 years ago…. we did not fully follow through. I am encouraged to see this conversation beginning again.” Let’s make sure this time, we follow through. As a profession, we excel at thinking forward for our communities, employers and clients. Let’s do the same for our profession.

Section leaders, please feel free to contact me with questions or ideas.

Raus is the principal planner with Bergmann Associates in Rochester, New York.

FRA is currently completing:

Downer Street Corridor Study
Watkins Glen Area Transportation Plan
Historic Erie Canal Aqueduct & Broad Street Corridor Master Plan

Envisioning a better tomorrow for New York

FRA was recently awarded:

Faith Village Church Campus
Brooks Landing Phase II Improvements
Village of Avon Comprehensive Plan Update

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By J. Justin Woods

In an effort to spur the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields sites, New Yorkers approved a $200 million Environmental Restoration or Brownfields Fund as part of the $1.75 billion Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act of 1996.

However, the $200 million originally allocated to the Environmental Restoration Program (ERP) is nearly exhausted and without this critical funding, economic development and urban revitalization in small upstate cities will stall.

Under ERP, the State provides grants to municipalities to reimburse up to 90 percent of on-site and 100% of off-site eligible costs for site investigation and remediation activities. Once remediated, the property may then be reused for commercial, industrial, residential or public use.

This article uses the City of Ogdensburg to build a case for funding the ERP program. I hope that such respected organizations as the American Planning Association (APA), New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) and others to mount a campaign to convince our elected officials to identify a legislative solution to this huge economic development priority.

Ogdensburg is a state-classified fiscally distressed city with at least 13 identified, and many suspected, brownfield sites. The impact of brownfields on the economic and social life of Ogdensburg is stark, and is best summarized in the city’s December 1997 Brownfields Revitalization Project report:

“[Ogdensburg’s] brownfield problem is without question, its largest impediment to future development... few communities can document as severe a brownfields problem based on the overall percentage of waterfront lands that are contaminated... The brownfields dilemma is unique because the brownfields properties happen to be the most expensive real estate in the city, but in their present state they represent a gold mine that is environmentally inaccessible and, therefore, untapped. The known and suspected environmental contamination on these vacant waterfront parcels in the City of Ogdensburg are thwarting critical economic redevelopment projects that are designed to stimulate the local economy and create new jobs for low and moderate income persons in the City of Ogdensburg.”

ERP provides municipalities like Ogdensburg hope and opportunity for a better future. For example, the city recently celebrated the completion of remedial site work at a 17-acre former Diamond International Paper Mill Site. The clean-up effort funded the demolition of the former paper mill and treated over 2 million gallons of wastewater from the two industrial clarifiers, the petroleum underground storage tank and an industrial lagoon. Over 5,000 tons of contaminated soil from seven designated ‘hot spots’, mostly petroleum-contaminated soil from the UST area, were removed from the site.

The remedial site work, which was conducted by Op-Tech Environmental Services and overseen by engineers from Barton & Loguidice, was conducted utilizing approximately $2.5 Million dollars in funding from the New York State Environmental Restoration Program.

Each successive step forward on the former Diamond
International Paper Mill Site is being celebrated in Ogdensburg. However, the city has three additional ERP applications that have been reviewed and approved by the Departments on a regional level (Region 6), but there is no funding in sight.

The first application is for the investigation of the former Standard Shade Roller property, which sits adjacent to the former Diamond site, is owned by the city and consists of approximately 8 acres and 1,000 feet of waterfront. The vacant site contains eight buildings totaling 260,000 square feet of unusable space due to the fact that the buildings were previously used for industrial manufacturing purposes. Last year, Ogdensburg applied for and was awarded a Restore NY Grant in the amount of $700,000 to demolish these structures.

However, without approval and funding of the ERP application that was submitted to the DEC, the property will remain unusable (and uninhabitable) due to soil and groundwater contamination. A potential developer has made it clear that the combined development of the two contiguous parcels is the only economically feasible way to make a redevelopment project happen, but this is unlikely if the city cannot secure remediation funds for the Shade Roller Site.

The 5.8-acre Kiwanis property is also the subject of an application for funding under the Environmental Restoration Program to complete the site investigation and identify the most appropriate clean-up approach. The Kiwanis Club has agreed to transfer the property to the city after its acceptance into the Environmental Restoration Program. To support the cleanup and redevelopment of this critical waterfront area, the city is undertaking a Phase I & II Environmental Site Assessment for the site. Funding for this effort comes from a Federal EPA Brownfields Assessment grant. However limited funds are available for the additional remediation expected to be needed.

The third site is the former Culligan Building and Montgomery properties in the Marina District, which is located at the confluence of the St. Lawrence and Oswegatchie Rivers. The Montgomery property, four city-owned parcels that encompass approximately 0.29 acres, is the subject of an application for funding under the Environmental Restoration Program to complete the site investigation and identify the most appropriate clean-up approach, including the removal of underground tanks. The city, which has used Restore NY funds to demolish these buildings, has moved forward with removing the onsite tanks, but funding for additional testing and remediation is needed to proceed with redevelopment.

Past industrial development has left a legacy toxic to our future economic development. It is vital that the state invests in our future by allocating sufficient funding for the investigation and cleanup of these sites and others in New York municipalities.

Woods is the Director of Planning & Development in Ogdensburg, New York. Documents described above are available for review on the city’s website: www.ogdensburg.org. Justin welcomes your comments and invites you to discuss your local and regional experiences with the ERP program and other brownfields and planning issues on the New York Upstate Planners Email List. Email Justin at jwoods@ogdensburg.org or follow the directions to subscribe to the Planners List at http://www.nyupstateplanning.org/NYUpstatePlannersList3.pdf
Rocky Ferraro reflects on life as a regional planner

At the last chapter conference, Rocco Ferraro received the Michael Krasner Professional Planner Award for his contributions to the planning profession. Ferraro is the executive director of the Capital District Regional Planning Commission. In this interview with the Upstate Planner’s Diane Carlton, Rocky describes his life, work and how planning in New York needs to change.

DC: Where did you go to school and how did you make a choice about what school to go to?
RF: Being a resident of New Jersey, I went to Rutgers University for my B.A., majoring in urban studies and planning. Then I went on to Ohio State University for a Masters in City & Regional Planning. OSU offered courses that interested me and it was diversified such that it would not be duplicative to what I had learned while at Rutgers. Besides, I was interested in heading "west" to see what life was like beyond the NY-NJ Metro area.

DC: What drew you to the planning field, and in particular, what interested you in regional planning?
RF: Beginning in high school, I became concerned about the transformation occurring in my neighborhood and began to attend the Planning Board meetings. When I went to Rutgers, I decided immediately to major in urban studies and have been in the planning profession ever since. I've been fortunate to work at levels ranging from neighborhood to regional planning in both the public and private sector.

DC: How does regional planning differ from local planning?
RF: In regional planning, the primary focus is on collaboration and fostering dialogues, establishing partnerships, and identifying and implementing state/regional/local initiatives. Since New York is a strong home rule state and CDRPC has no regulatory or taxing authority, it's primarily about applying the power of persuasion.

DC: What projects or activities do you get involved with at the Capital District Regional Planning Commission that a local planner would not?
RF: Our involvement in inter-municipal agreements and shared services is somewhat unique. For instance, as the head of CDRPC, I am also the Chief Administrator for the Capital Region Juvenile Detention Center which is jointly owned by Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady counties.

Our organization is also the project manager for the Long Term Control Plan to address issues associated with Combined Sewer Overflows in the Hudson River.

That being said, CDRPC's staff is involved in a variety of planning activities working in partnership with our counterparts at the local, regional, and state level. The intent is not to duplicate services but to supplement and support their work as necessary and appropriate. Examples include smart growth initiatives, economic development, data services, including GIS, water quality and preparing for the upcoming 2010 Census.

DC: What types of groups and people do you interact with as part of your job? Do you get out in the field often?
RF: I'm "out in the field" quite frequently, but it's different than being out in the field as a neighborhood planner, where you literally roll up your sleeves and work with, and advocate on behalf, of the stakeholders in to improve their quality of life.

Rather, my activities are more focused on defining
synergies and establishing opportunities for collaboration and partnerships. In a very positive way, planners have come to realize that they can not operate their programs as independent silos and that there are common threads among the myriad public, private, and non-profit service providers. During the last several years, program managers increasingly recognize that decisions about, for example, economic development can not be made in a vacuum without fully understanding the impacts in other areas.

The bottom line: in order to implement sustainable development objectives, there must be dialogue among and between the service providers at all levels. Regional planners are in the position to lead and facilitate these conversations.

**DC:** What do you enjoy most about your job?

**RF:** The diversity of the projects I am involved and the excellent staff I have here at CDRPC.

**DC:** What is the most difficult part of your job?

**RF:** Demands on my time. CDRPC has been asked to be involved in a number of regional initiatives and it is important that I represent our Commission and be directly involved in the discussions to provide input. However, I also enjoy the traditional planning work such as preparing technical reports and studies that require hands on research and investigation. All that, in addition to leading and managing CDRPC. I guess I need to delegate more, but I enjoy all the aspects of the profession.

**DC:** Is regional planning a good career field to go into in terms of job availability?

**RF:** Certainly, for two primary reasons. First, there is a recognition of the complexities associated with how strategies implemented in one area impact other functional areas. As regional planners, we can bring together the stakeholders and facilitate the discussions in order to better understand these complex interactions.

Second, what better way to be more fiscally prudent than establishing intermunicipal agreements for shared services. Regional planning can provide the leadership to study and implement these measures. All that being said, it is important to accept the fact that nurturing relationships and advocating for change, especially in New York State, which is steeped in tradition, requires lots of patience and understanding of attitudes, regardless of how inefficient you may think the old ways of doing things are.

**DC:** You’ve worked for both the public and the private sector. What are the advantages of each?

**RF:** In the public sector, one has the luxury of time to get to understand the community, including its personality. There is a great deal of satisfaction knowing that you are a part of the vision to improve the quality of life for the next generation of stakeholders. On the down side, “they” know who you are and where to find you if you screw up!

In the private sector, an advantage is that you are tasked to provide specific services, and once completed you move on. There is more opportunity for the closure and professional satisfaction associated with completing a task successfully. As a negative, being cognizant of the billable hours may require cutting corners that may prevent you from submitting the “perfect” report or study.

**DC:** What do you see as the major changes in the planning field since you first started practicing?

**RF:** I’ve never been to Europe nor have I communicated with my professional counterparts on the other side of the pond, so it would be difficult for me to give an intelligent response to this question. However, I must say, that New York’s political leaders need to embrace a more transparent system of governance if New York is to reclaim its status as the Empire State that is positively looked upon by others in this country and abroad as leaders to offer solutions to tomorrow’s problems.

**DC:** Is there anything else you would like to add that we haven’t discussed?

**RF:** No, I’ve probably said enough and then some!
Vice President’s Report
Judy Breselor, AICP

As the Vice-President my duties were to assist the Chapter President and help with the chapter conference and awards ceremony. Over the past year I have participated on the Legislative Policy Committee which helps prepare policy guides, and I participated as a floor manager for the Delegate Assembly at the annual APA conference held in Las Vegas. The atmosphere at the Delegate Assembly is exciting and working with our Chapters’ Delegates I was able to actively participate on policy guides which are used by Planners throughout the country.

As mentioned, one duty is to work with the sponsoring section on the annual chapter conference. Thank you to the Genesee Finger Lakes Section for working so hard on this conference, which was a tremendous success. Despite my concerns about a conference in a suburban environment the numbers of attendees broke many previous records. Thanks for the hard work of Jason Haremza and his steering committee.

Chapter Vice President has the responsibility of developing the chapter planning awards given out at our annual conference. I was very thankful and appreciative to Rocky Ferraro who brought his “award expertise” to once again co-chair the awards committee with me. His insight to the process and selection was very valuable and once again, his help on this committee made the task very enjoyable.

Director of Legislative Affairs
Mark Castiglione

Whether it is building sustainable communities, competing in the global marketplace, protecting our natural systems, minimizing and mitigating the impacts of global climate change, smart growth is an integral piece of the puzzle. In the work we do each day, we advance the ideals of smart growth but we must take that commitment a step further. APA and its Chapters advocate for programs and policies that will help implement smart growth on the federal, state and local levels.

The APA provides its members with numerous resources to guide advocacy. The APA’s Policy Guides provide a solid foundation that helps move toward an improved social and political environment in which planning can play its most effective role. The Policy Guides provide guidance for APA Chapters as they develop their legislative priorities from year to year. Using these resources, I completed several bill memos outlining the Chapter’s position on various state legislative proposals. http://www.nyupstateplanning.org/LegislativeUpdate8-08.pdf In addition to its Policy Guides, APA now offers an Advocates Toolbox and an Advocacy Meeting Toolkit to help give planners the tools they need to clearly communicate critical issues to the public and our elected officials.

I was privileged to represent the Chapter at the 2008 National Conference Delegate Assembly in Las Vegas. Delegates from all APA chapters were charged with discussing and adopting the APA’s new Policy Guide on Climate Change. The guide aims to identify the necessary local, state, and federal policy changes required to plan successfully for climate change mitigation and adaptation. For more information on the APA Advocacy and Policy Guides see: http://www.planning.org/policy/

I was required to resign my position in May after assuming a policy-making role with a State agency. Doug Greene was nominated to fill the remainder of my term in June.

Treasurer’s Report
Rocky Ferraro, AICP

The Chapter operated on a $35,725 budget during 2008. Actual expenses totaled $21,453.69 and revenue was $29,781.28. The revenue includes $1320.00 in contributions to the Mike Krasner Scholarship Fund which are restricted to the Scholarship fund. The major expenditures during 2008 included the Chapter newsletter ($5,481.49), Section Rebates ($5,366), the Mike Krasner Scholarship Award ($1,500), attendance at the National APA Delegate assembly ($1,445), Certified Maintenance fees to National ($1,171.54). The Chapter share of the conference proceeds held in Rochester amounted to $7666.82.

The Section rebates, based on the number of members by type, were distributed to the Sections as follows: Capital District: $1,787; Central NY: $581; Genesee/Finger Lakes: $179; Southern Tier: $670; and Western NY: $1,549.

Chapter assets at the end of 2008 was $55,118.99 which consisted in its entirety as Cash in the Bank. There are no outstanding receivables. Outstanding Liabilities totaled $581.00. The Fund Balance is $54,537.99, of which $6,532 is restricted and dedicated to the Mike Krasner Scholarship Fund. As a result of contributions received during 2008, the Krasner Scholarship fund balance decreased slightly from $6,712 to $6,532. A $1500 scholarship is awarded annually to a Graduate Planning student at SUNY-Buffalo in Mike’s memory.

If anyone has any questions or would like a copy of the 2008 Budget, the 2008 Actual Revenues and Expenses, or Balance Sheet, please contact me at rocky@cdrpc.org. or call (518) 453-0850.

Director of Legislative Affairs
Doug Greene, AICP, RLA

Doug Greene was nominated to fill the remainder of Mark’s term in June and has taken on the work of advancing the legislative goals of the Chapter. Mr. Greene has attended 2 meetings (Sept. & Nov.) of the NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources State Land Use Advisory Committee in Albany, where new land use laws, slated for this year’s State Legislative Session, were discussed and considered to be forwarded on to this year’s session.

Doug also represented the Upstate Chapter in October by attending the National APA’s Legislative Policy Conference in Washington D.C. He is also relaying various legislative and policy issues on the Upstate Chapter’s website on possible changes to the State’s Environmental Quality Review Law (SEQR) and information regarding new State policy directives on Aging in New York. He looks forward to 2009 and the challenges and opportunities brought on by the ongoing economic downturn and corresponding “rescue package” that needs to have our planning input.
At the end of 2007 our chapter had 756 members. By the end of the third quarter of 2008 our membership had jumped to 869. This is not unusual due to the annual influx of students from our Planning Accreditation Board-accredited programs at Cornell University (Southern Tier Section), SUNY Albany (Capital District) and the University at Buffalo (Western New York). We also have student members from SUNY College at Buffalo (Buff State) and SUNY ESF in Syracuse (Central New York Section) as well as others. The chart at right shows our membership statistics as of the third quarter 2008.

Three of our sections, Capital District, Western New York and Central New York have land borders with Canada (Genesee Finger Lakes shares a marine border with Ontario) and among these sections we have 47 Canadian members. Most (35) are in the Western New York section which includes the Greater Toronto Area. Capital District and Central New York have five Canadian members each. Among the chapter’s membership, roughly one-third (31%) maintain membership in the American Institute of Certified Planners.

One of the comments we often get is that members are not hearing from their sections. This is almost always due to the fact that you moved or changed e-mail addresses and failed to update your on-line profile at planning.org. We cannot complete this task for you. To log on to the secure membership area on planning.org, you will need your membership number. You can find it on your bill and also on your Planning magazine address label. If you have a membership issue that is not resolved by updating your membership profile or have a membership-related question, you can contact me at eholberg@pjscompany.com. I am happy to help if I can.

Professional Development Report
Ellen Parker, AICP

The Professional Development Officer (PDO) for the Chapter is responsible for ensuring all APA members maintain high professional standards and continue to further their continuing education in the field. 2008 was a busy year, with the official start of the new Certification Maintenance (CM) system. As a reminder, all AICP planners need to obtain 32 credits of CM-certified continuing education every two years. For all planners who had AICP credentials at the start of 2008, the first two-year cycle ends in December 2009.

AICP Exam Preparation: We sold 9 copies of the AICP Study Guide offered through the Chapter Presidents’ Council. A few New York planners participated in the AICP Exam training offered in Pennsylvania in March. We co-sponsored a webcast prep session offered in April.

AICP Exam: We had 8 planners from NY Upstate take the AICP exam in November 2008 and 6 pass—a success rate of 75%. Nationally, the pass rate was just under 62%. Due to changes to the APA website, I do not have the information for the May 08 candidates, but you know who you are. Congratulations to all our new AICP planners!

CM Credits: The Chapter and its Sections offered many opportunities to earn CM credits over the past year. Certified events included dinner meetings and walking tours (Western New York Section); luncheons (Capital District Section); evening lectures (Genesee-Finger Lakes Section) and of course the conference. The national CM website has re-opened and the Chapter conference is being submitted for credits.

"First Fridays" CM Training: New York Upstate was one of fourteen Chapters co-sponsoring a monthly "First Fridays" web-
Michael J. Krasner Memorial Scholarship. In 2008 the Chapter, represented by an ad hoc committee, awarded the fifth annual Michael J. Krasner Memorial Scholarship to a student in his/her last year in the Urban and Regional Planning Program at the University of Buffalo. Brittany DiLeo was the 2008 recipient of the $1,500 scholarship. Through her resume and essay, Brittany showed both her understanding of a wide variety of planning issues in Western New York, as well as her commitment to practicing planning in the Upstate Chapter. Gary Palumbo, representing the Chapter Board, sat on the 2008 selection committee along with Ken Swanekamp, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, and Jon Biss, University of Buffalo.

The Michael J. Krasner Memorial Scholarship is a competitive award for a graduate student in the Urban and Regional Planning Program at the University at Buffalo. The scholarship honors Mike Krasner’s dedication to the planning profession and education in Western New York, as well as his commitment to APA. The $1,500 scholarship is awarded to the student that best exhibits: his/her commitment to planning issues in Western and Upstate New York; their intent to practice within the Upstate Chapter; and who best reflects the ideals of Mike Krasner.

AICP Certification Maintenance. Starting in 2007, the Member-at-Large sat on a Chapter Board sub-committee to investigate ways the Chapter Board and Sections can facilitate AICP members’ access to credit bearing course work required for the newly established Certification Maintenance program. In 2008, the Member-at-Large, working closely with the Chapter PDO, completed a proposed addendum to the Chapter Plan which outlined protocols for the Chapter and Sections to follow in their efforts to provide AICP members opportunities to obtain CM credits. The protocols included guidelines for conference CM offerings, Chapter/Section cost sharing for materials and CM registration, and budget recommendations.

Chapter Executive Staff Position. In 2008, the Member-at-Large sat on a committee to investigate the creation of a part-time administrator position for the Chapter Board. In November, the Committee recommended to the Board as a whole that the position be created with an approximate budget of $8,000. Subsequently, Tanya Zwahlen was recommended to be hired on a consultant basis for 2009.

Chapter Secretary’s Report
Jason Haremza, AICP

The secretary’s position is a necessary but rather prosaic function of any organization. I’ve endeavored to keep the Chapter Board roster up to date, and with much appreciated assistance from Diane Carlton, I’ve recorded and distributed the minutes of each of the Board meetings in 2008. As requested from time to time, I’ve also updated the Chapter letterhead on an as-needed basis. I hope to continue these tasks, and any others requested of me, with efficiency and competence in 2009.

In the election for new officers, a total of 49 votes were cast. 46 votes were cast for the full slate of officers. Two votes were cast for a partial slate with some positions left blank. One vote for a partial slate with a write-in candidate. Of the 49 total votes cast, 11 were cast via email and 38 cast via U.S. mail.

Genesee Finger Lakes Section Report
Daniel O’Hanlon

The GFL Section’s main event in 2008 was hosting the Chapter Conference in Henrietta and Canandaigua. We also held the annual Dinner-Meeting-Election at the Martini Grille restaurant in Rochester’s Park Avenue neighborhood in January, and coordinated the Chapter co-sponsorship of the Larry Stid Memorial Lecture on May 13, 2008. This lecture featured Rick Bernhardt, AICP, Director of Planning for Nashville-Davidson County, and is part of the Reshaping Rochester series of lectures on architecture, design, and planning, organized by the Rochester Regional Community Design Center. We will again be assisting with the Chapter co-sponsorship of the Larry Stid Memorial Lecture in 2009, which will take place on April 16, 2009 and feature George Heartwell and Suzanne Schulz, AICP, mayor and director of planning for Grand Rapids, Michigan. More information on the Reshaping Rochester series can be found at www.rrcdc.org.

Southern Tier Section Report
Gail Domin

The Southern Tier Section Board has refocused itself for 2009. After all of the work that went into the 2007 convention in Binghamton, the Board was understandably a bit weary this past year. But, the nominated slate of officers for 2009 represents some new faces, and new ideas for the section. We hope to hold programs throughout the Section, and are eagerly seeking ideas for projects to tour. Also, it’s not too early to start thinking about nominations for the 2009 APA Awards.

Capital District Section Report
Sandy Misiwicz AICP

The Capital District Section sponsored five luncheon programs highlighted by our February program featuring Paul Beyer, Coordinator of the New York State Smart Growth Task Force.

As a follow up to Paul’s presentation and request for help, the section organized a Smart Growth working group. The group held two workshops, including one as a session at the 2008 Chapter Conference, and conducted a survey of section members to learn more about the critical issues facing planners with respect to smart growth. The workshops and related survey led to the identification of several key issues including the challenge of Upstate New York’s largely auto-oriented transportation system, the need to link state funding for infrastructure to smart growth planning and the need to consider regionalizing planning and increasing inter-municipal cooperation opportunities. A letter was sent by the section to Paul Beyer highlighting our findings.

The section continued its support of Professional Development and Certification Maintenance by hosting six APA Audio/Web Conferences and developing a CD Rom resource library in partnership with the Capital District Regional Planning Commission. The section also worked with the planning students at the University at Albany on their GIS and World Town Planning Day event, continued its support of the Paul Marr award for...
Western New York Section Report
Richard Guarino, AICP

2008 was a busy year for the Executive Committee of the WNY APA. The section fulfilled its role to its members by providing numerous educational, professional and social activities. In addition, the section advocated for several local planning initiatives.

We have been heavily involved in the AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) process. This involvement includes the continuing education of our members, holding AICP Audio/Web Conferences, contributing to the Upstate Chapter CM protocols discussions, offering CM credits for attending our Dinner Programs and development and assigning CM duties to the Section PDO by means of a bylaw revision. The section conducted eleven executive committee meetings, including one at the UB Department of Planning to show the planning students who we were and what we do.

WNY APA hosted three 90-minute AICP Audio/Web conferences: Mastering Density, Community Based Brownfield Redevelopment, and 2008 Planning Law Review. With corporate sponsorship, the conferences were provided free to our members. Dinner programs remain our primary social opportunity in the section. In 2008, the section held dinner programs on the following topics: Erie-Niagara Framework for Regional Growth, Architecture and Tourism - a Case Study (co-Sponsored with ASLA), and Frank Lloyd Wright’s Darwin Martin House. The 2008 Section Awards Dinner and Annual Business Meeting and Tour of Buffalo Inner Harbor Development. Two basket raffles were held to raise money for the Michael J Krasner Memorial Scholarship Fund. These raffles raised around $1,500.

The WNY Section participated in two areas of advocacy. First, the section director sent a letter to the Erie County Legislature supporting a proposal for reviving the Regional Planning Board. Second, the director sent letters to local newspapers, the Niagara Falls Common Council, and the Niagara Falls mayor supporting the need for a senior planner in Niagara Falls - a position that some were trying to eliminate.

The section executive committee added the position of UB Faculty Liaison. This is a full time faculty member from the UB Department of Planning that is appointed by the department chair. The position was created to provide a strong and permanent tie between academic and professional planning in WNY. Due to the careful spending of the executive board, the section ended the year with almost as much as we began the year. Our Newsletter, The Buffalo-Niagara PlanNet, is now distributed electronically, saving paper, postage and mailing time. This is estimated to save the Section over $700 per year. The section sent letters to those members with no email address listed with instructions on how to update their profile. We now have only 3 members without email information. The Section website (wnyapa.com) continues to be updated and enhanced. It has been my pleasure to serve as director for 2008. I look forward to working with my committee, board and membership for 2009.

Capital District Section Report - Continued from previous page

Student excellence in planning and held a student luncheon program at which the students presented to the professionals the results of their planning studio work.

The section has several new faces on the executive committee including Section Director Steve Iachetta, airport planner for the Albany County Airport Authority; Professional Development Officer and CM Coordinator Doug Melnick, planning director for the City of Albany; and secretary Jason Purvis, senior transportation planner with the Capital District Transportation Committee. The Capital District Section will be busy in 2009 planning the chapter conference in Albany and continuing the monthly luncheon programs and supporting the AICP CM program through the audio/web conference series and CD Rom programs.
Got a great plan? Submit it!

It is time to think about submitting for the 2009 New York Upstate Chapter professional awards program. The awards provide an opportunity for planners to recognize the ways in which other planners make great communities happen.

As in the past, categories and criteria for chapter awards program will parallel the APA National Planning Awards. Award categories, eligibility and selection criteria will be posted on the chapter website and emailed to everyone in early May. The deadline will be July 11, 2009. (The deadline for APA National’s 2010 awards will be late summer 2009.)

This year Gary Palumbo, chapter vice president, will serve as the awards committee chairman. The committee will consist of the chair and five members representing each of the geographic sections within the chapter. The committee will review the nominations and make recommendations to the chapter board. Awards will be presented at the chapter conference this fall in Albany. If you have any questions regarding the Chapter awards program, please contact Gary at (716) 362-1126 or by e-mail: gpalumbo@acp-ny.com.

2009 Chapter Awards Deadline
July 11, 2009
Check the chapter website and watch your email for details.

Save the Date
2009 Chapter Conference
September 30 to October 2
Albany, New York
For those of you needed to wrap up your CM credits... this will be a great opportunity before the end of 2009.

PLAN 400:
Honoring the Past, Planning the Future
2009 Chapter Conference

A conference committee formed by the Capital District Planners Association is working feverishly to put together this fall’s chapter conference. Headed by co-chairs Sandy Misiewicz AICP and Jaclyn Hakes AICP, the committee is organizing the event to capitalize on the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson’s trip exploration of the river that bears his name.

The team has focused on three session tracks: technology, sustainability and history. A call for proposals for sessions has gone out. If anyone has any ideas for sessions, speakers or field trips, they should send them to Sandy at smisiewicz@cdtcmpo.org.

Organizers also hope that the conference’s Albany location - close to New York City and western New England - will help bring planners together across chapter borders.