

The Upstate Planner

Making Great Communities Happen

Volume 21

August 2006

Issue 3

President's Message

By Mike Long, AICP, RLA

This September promises another exciting conference for the APA New York Upstate Chapter. Jim Kent and I have been working diligently on the "Tomorrow's Technology Today" gathering in our hometown of Auburn, New York.

In addition to the APA, the Upstate Chapter of ASLA and the NYS Geographic Information Association (NYSGISA) are co-hosts. Also contributing are Cornell University, The New York State Urban Council, and the Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology (IAGT).

Bob Brower, the CEO of IAGT, will offer the opening plenary session highlighting the "cutting edge" technology that he has developed in alliance with NASA. IAGT projects around the world are some of the most exciting around.

William Fulton, a national planning figure, returns to his hometown of Auburn to be our keynote speaker. Fulton is an authority on sprawl, economic development and smart growth. He is also a city council member in Ventura, California.

Last year we had over 250 conference registrants and this year we hope to offer another exciting program that will re-energize many planning professionals.

Please visit www.nyupstateplanning.org, our NY Upstate Planning web site for registration information.

Long is the interim City Manager of Auburn.

More conference information on pages 3,4, and 5.

Tomorrow's Technology Today conference

Cutting-edge planning is the focus of many sessions coming together for the Upstate Chapter Conference. "Tomorrow's Technology Today" is the theme for the gathering, set for September 13 through September 15, in Auburn.

One track, labeled Cutting Edge Technology for Design Professionals, includes sessions on Geographic Information Systems, Census analysis and Internet Mapping. Other sessions about geothermal energy and clean communities are part of the Energy and Economic Development. Other tracks feature a look at waterfront design as part of the greater bioregion and historic district mapping.

In addition to long-term conference partner, the American Society of Landscape Architects, The Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology offers its expertise to attendees. Affiliated with the National Aero-

navics and Space Administration, IAGT will conduct several sessions. Robert Brower, CEO of the IAGT will be the plenary speaker focusing on the integration of geospatial technol-

Conf. Dates: Sept. 13 to Sept. 15

ogy into planning. Other participants include the New York State GIS Association and New York State Urban Council.

With the support of Cornell University, William Fulton, president of Solimar Research Group, will give the keynote address. A frequent contributor to the Urban Land Institute and the author of *Governing Magazine's* column on economic development, Bill can contrast planning in his home of Ventura, California with his birthplace in Auburn. (Fulton offers early comments to the *Upstate Planner* on page 3.)

APA weighs in against anti-global warming ruling

By Lora Lucero, AICP

Does global warming endanger public health? That is the question before the U.S. Supreme Court and the American Planning Association believes that the Environmental Protection Agency should regulate the emission of greenhouse gases as health hazards.

On June 26, 2006, the United States Supreme Court agreed to hear next term the "global warming" case brought by the state of Massachusetts and others against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Without a doubt, all eyes should be focused on this case, certainly the bellwether for how the Justices will respond to environmental challenges for many years to come. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito have both joined the Court this term, creating a new team with a very scant track record from which to make predictions.

The American Planning Association joined the U.S. Conference of Mayors,



For decades the EPA has regulated pollutants to protect public welfare. The APA wants that protection to extend to greenhouse gases. (Photo: Environmental Protection Agency)

the National Association of Counties, and the City of Seattle to urge the Court to accept this case for review. Why? As local officials and planners, we will be the first responders for the variety of disasters that

See Warming, continued on page 7

A planner's call-to-arms: Join the WIMBY Band

By Kristen Hughes

One of the great pleasures of being a planner is adopting an ethic of curiosity. Many of us arrived in this vocation at the end of long roads of discovery, initially pursuing other fields of study. It is this eclectic nature of our work that provides an unwavering fascination and captures our interest to continue the pursuit of our individual and community goals.

So how do we share the excitement? How can we infect our communities with this powerful virus for change? Within each community there lies a unique constellation of resources, a fingerprint which identifies the core nature and opportunity present in each place. I like to call this the "opportunity of place."

This summer's pirate movies lend an apt metaphor for our pursuit of these wonderful treasures. Assemble a band of like-minded souls and pledge an oath to find the long missing treasure that is your community. Look off to your horizon and search for the signs - perhaps a forgotten map (that old travel guide or topo map) or an unfinished manuscript (the 10 year-old plan, or history of your Town) or an out of the way historical spot.

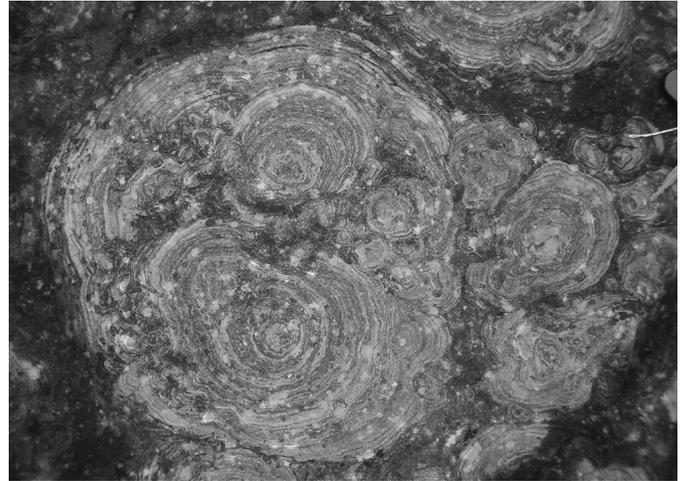
The pursuit of these treasures is no childish game. These special places, these rediscovered histories and special natural features combine to create your "opportunity of place." They become the foci for common experience and community pride. Engendering multi-level interest in these different aspects of community can define the attractiveness that shapes each community's special "quality of life." These desired characteristics become the themes for community marketing as tourism destinations and business locations. (Remember, where a CEO wants to live is where they will most likely want to work).

So do what you do so well! Conduct inventories of place, but look a little deeper. Explore the unique natural features of your community. Check forest communities for champions and specimens, know your ecological niches and endangered species. Learn your geological history. Showcase the dynamic processes and change occurring right under your nose every day.

While on a recent journey of discovery I stumbled across a vague reference to an ancient mystery on a map. Pursuing the trail we found an ancient sea bottom right by the road. Millions of tiny creatures memorialized in rock. It is a treasure that had not unveiled itself to my host - and yet another resource for creating community pride.

So what's a WIMBY? You are. Start asking everywhere you go, "What's in my backyard?" Be an agent for discovery. There is treasure for all. Aye!!

Hughes is director of planning for Ontario County.



Planner Kris Hughes found these fossils while exploring the community "backyard" of his friend and colleague (and editor of the Upstate Planner) George Homsy.

Passing the test

Six of seven upstate planners passed the May 2006 AICP exam. The chapter had an 86 percent success rate – much better than the national average of 67 percent.

Upstate New York's newest certified planners are:

- Joshua N. Abrams, Ithaca
- Mary M. Burgoon, Syracuse
- Tracy Ann Miller, Saratoga Springs
- Wesley Pettee, Cortland
- Meredith L. Smith, Cortland
- James A. Wagner, Buffalo

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Bringing his lessons home: Conference Keynote Speaker

William Fulton is coming home. When he gives the keynote address at this year's Upstate APA conference in Auburn, Fulton will be back in his hometown.

Fulton has lived for the last 25 years in California. Before he left and before he became a planner, Fulton was a journalist working for Auburn, Buffalo and Syracuse newspapers.

*In California he founded and heads a planning research institute called Solimar in Ventura, a Los Angeles suburb. Among his books is Los Angeles Times bestseller, *The Reluctant Metropolis: The Politics of Urban Growth in Los Angeles*.*

UP: You're back and forth a lot between the east and west coasts. You see a lot of planning. What do places like Auburn do well?

WF: Auburn is really good at getting federal grants. (Laughs.) Seriously, that's important. Both the local politicians and the local planners know how to work with Congressman Walsh and Senator Clinton to get funding for their planning projects.

Unfortunately, Auburn was also very well connected to

Planning in a Page

HUD's federal money during the urban renewal days. They were able to raise a lot of money and a lot of the city got torn down. Not a lot of it has been replaced.

Still, Auburn is typical in many ways. It has tremendous assets including things like the old library building. Like many towns in upstate New York, the buildings in the community are built well, which contribute to its sense of place.

UP: What could the city do better?

WF: In all of upstate New York, the problem is demand. I'm fortunate. I live in California where demand is very high. There is a market for everything.

Because of New York's chronic economic depression, there is no demand, so it is difficult for anyone to do anything creative. You need that demand, that growth pressure in order to have something to shape.

For example, in Auburn, there was a wonderful old apartment building on the river. If it had been in California, it would have been quickly converted into lofts or condos. It was a great location, right on the water. Unfortunately, the cost to save the

building was so much more than it would fetch in sales or rent in Auburn. So they had to tear it down. I don't blame them; there is just no demand.

So the things that planners need to do better are often out of their control – things like demand. It makes it hard for planners to innovate.

UP: So what should upstate planners do?

Although it is economically depressed, it's filled with wonderful urban places. Many cities have a sense of place that is irreplaceable.

You asked what Auburn could do better. They could reinforce that sense of place. It would help that community pursue cultural tourism.

For example, you could take another look at outdoor recreation. Now that all of the factories in Auburn are gone from the river, the fish have come back. You can do some amazing trout fishing right in downtown. That helps provide a sense of place.

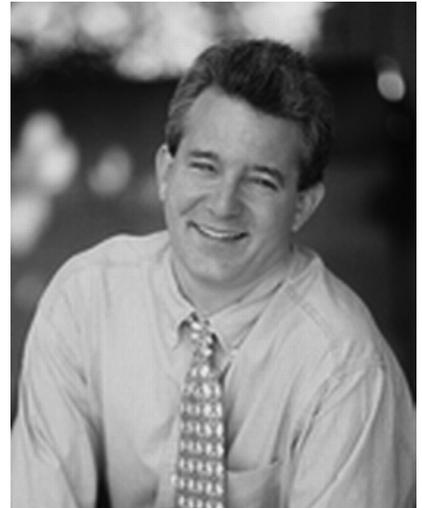
Another thing I would say is that no single city can market itself. Recently, Senator Clinton linked the Harriet Tubman places in Auburn to the woman's rights places in Seneca Falls. The pair are a good cultural tourism play. Cities need to figure out how they can work together. No one can do anything alone.

UP: What is the biggest thing you learned in California?

WF: I've realized how important that sense of place can be. Every place in California that has a pre-war downtown is thriving. Twenty years ago people here did not value that sense of place. But the change has been tremendous, especially as California has become homogenized; these urban places are now more valuable.

We see it all over the country. There are dozens around Los Angeles. The lesson for upstate New York is to figure a way to market itself and its special sense of place.

See Fulton, continued on page 4



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Conference Session Tracks

The sessions will be organized into four tracks running concurrently on Thursday and Friday. They are:

- Energy and Economic Development
- Design, Planning and Preservation
- Cutting Edge Technology for Design Professionals
- Downtown Revitalization Efforts

Conference Cultural Events

Conference organizers have pulled together a full slate of evening events to take advantage of the Auburn culture.

Live at the Auburn Public Theater

Wednesday, 7 to 9pm

Bring a guitar to the Finger Lakes newest underground music scene. This newly-opened downtown community center will host an open mike night and music by Finger Lakes Area artists, including our own Bob Brower. There will be a space to socialize, pizza and salad and a cash bar available. (\$5)

Save America's Treasures Tour

Thursday, 1:30pm to 3pm or 3:15pm to 4:45pm

Auburn hosts five Save America's Treasures sites and several National Historic Landmarks. This tour will take planners to the Willard Memorial Chapel, which has the only complete Tiffany Religious interior. It will also visit the William Henry Seward House Museum, the future Harriet Tubman National Park Service project, and historic Emerson Park. (\$20)

Dinner in the Park

Thursday, 6:15pm

After the Thursday night reception at Emerson Park Pavilion, stay for a buffet dinner in the historic "Lake Side Pavilion" restaurant. The pavilion was built in 1912 at a Victorian Pleasure Park and has a commanding view sitting over Owasco Lake. (\$25)

Merry-Go-Round "My Way"

Thursday, 7:30pm

After dinner on Thursday night, the famous Merry-Go-Round Theater Playhouse hosts a musical tribute to Frank Sinatra. The chapter has reserved a block of prime seats at a discounted rate. (\$25)

The Blues and Brews Train Ride

Friday, 7 to 9pm

End the conference with a train ride to Cayuga Lake. The three hour long excursion will feature microbrew tasting, live music, and appetizers. Reservations required by August 30. (\$30)

Chapter meetings and speakers

The APA, ASLA, and NYGISA will hold their chapter board meetings on Wednesday, September 13 from 3pm until 4:50pm.

On Thursday morning from 8:45 am until 10:15 am will be the Plenary Session featuring Bob Brower of the Institute for Applied Geospatial Technology. William Fulton will give the keynote address on Friday morning at 8:45.

Keynote speaker coming home

Fulton, continued from page 3

UP: In all of the research you do about planning in general, have you discovered something that challenged your conventional wisdom?

WF: I did a study for the Brookings Institution with Rolf Pendall at Cornell University. We found that, despite what we think, western cities are actually very dense. They are denser than the northeast and denser than the northwest.

You go to Phoenix or Las Vegas or Los Angeles or Boise or Reno and they tend to be flat low-rise buildings with a uniform density. And you can see that they are very auto dependent. So you think that the sprawl is worse there than the other areas, but they are actually very dense compared to the national standards.

I came to realize that different places have different challenges. It made me feel pretty good about the west, that it will not actually be stuck forever with sprawling growth.

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TOMORROW'S TECHNOLOGY TODAY

APA | ASLA | NYSGISA JOINT NEW YORK UPSTATE CONFERENCE

September 13 - 15, 2006
 Holiday Inn, Auburn, New York

Conference Registration Form	http://www.nyupstateplanning.org
Please MAIL or FAX your Registration Form to: Mail: Conference Registration City of Auburn – OPED 24 South Street Auburn, NY 13021	
Fax: (315) 253-0282	

Indicate Affiliation(s): APA NYSGISA Membership No.(s) _____ NON-MEMBER
 ASLA STUDENT _____

First Name	Last Name
Title	Organization/School
Address	Name Desired on Badge
City	State
Phone	Zip
Fax	Email

Registration Fees: Early registration deadline is September 1, 2006. Please include payment with Registration Form. If you register by fax, payment must be received by September 8, 2006 or the walk-in rate will be charged.

Registration Options:	APA, ASLA, or NYSGISA Member		Non-Member		Student	Walk - In	Total
	By 9/1	After 9/1	By 9/1	After 9/1			
Full Conference: includes Wednesday welcome reception, Thursday lunch and reception, Friday lunch	\$160	\$175	\$185	\$200	\$60	\$220	
Thursday Only: includes ASLA Awards Luncheon	\$80	\$90	\$90	\$100	\$30	\$120	
Thursday ASLA Awards Luncheon only	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	----	----	
Thursday evening reception at Emerson Park only	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$15	----	
Friday Only: includes APA Awards Luncheon	\$80	\$90	\$90	\$100	\$30	\$120	
Friday APA Awards Luncheon only	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	----	----	
Additional Activities: (not included with conference registration fees)							
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Sites Tour – Thursday Afternoon	\$20						
<input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday evening “Live at Auburn Public Theater”	\$5						
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday evening Dinner at Emerson Park Pavilion	\$25						
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday evening “My Way: Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra” at Merry-Go-Round Playhouse at Emerson Park	\$25 if payment received by Aug. 30th (\$30 if available after Aug. 30th)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday 7-10pm <i>Finger Lakes Railroad Excursion Train</i> – Microbrew beer, appetizers, & live music	\$30 Reservations required by August 30th						
Registration Total							

Please Indicate Your Lunch Selections:

Thursday: Beef Chicken Vegetarian **Friday:** Fish Chicken Vegetarian

Make Checks Payable To: CNY Section APA (Note: Chapter Conference) – DO NOT SEND CASH – No refunds will be given after September 8, 2006. A 12% service charge will be deducted from all refunds. Registrations are transferable.

Upstate planners should organize in support of green energy

One of the reasons many of us got into planning is because we can help impact the environment at the local level. We can protect open space, groundwater, and, in our ideal walkable communities, we can cut down on car driving and air pollution.

Not surprisingly, our sphere of influence usually is grounded in land use. Indeed, a resident in one of my client communities recently asked if a chapter on environmental protection included in the latest draft of their comprehensive plan was appropriate. His fear? Recommendations to green town operations, clean the air, and boost energy efficiency might detract from the plan's land use aspects.

The chapter stayed in the plan. And now the American Planning Association has given me a good reason why.

As Lora Lucero explains in her front-page article ("APA weighs in against global warming ruling"), planners must be concerned about climate change. The APA reasons rightly that local governments will have to deal with weather-related emergencies caused by climate change. Also planners have to piece together the physical, social and economic debris after a disaster. (See the article on page ten about how Cornell University planners continue to work in New Orleans' devastated Ninth Ward.)

In addition, at this year's chapter conference you can attend sessions on global warming, geothermal power and "clean communities of central New York." Certainly translating these sessions into our everyday work on plans, policies, rules and programs is vital.

But given the scale of the potential disaster that is global warming, we must find ways to do more. I offer two possible policy planks if the chapter ever decided to study the issue and recommend a course of action.

First, I suggest the creation of Energy Zones. In return for hosting renewable power producers (such as wind farms), communities would receive financial benefits. I would be willing to have the state use my tax dollars to help communities that bear the burden for my atmosphere, much more so than to help private companies that may or may not produce the jobs they promise.

Second, we should require that every single new structure must have a solar roof. With one change in the state building code, we could make New York the center of green energy, dramatically reduce our reliance on dirty power, and probably cut our highest in the nation energy costs, thereby boosting our economy.

These are just a couple of ideas, I could contribute from in front of my computer. There are many more technologies (including underwater turbines being tested off of New York City to harness river and tidal energies) that could become part of our clean energy position paper.

Do any of these seem radical? Not at all, especially when you realize how radical our actions will have to be if we do nothing.

These views are solely those of Upstate Planning Editor George Homsy. If you want to express your ideas on this or any planning topic, send a 300- to 400-word essay to ghomsy@saratogaassociates.com.

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APA against anti-global warming

Warming, continued from page 1

climate change may create, such as the deadly heat waves that strike with special force in urban areas and the storm surges that threaten heavily populated coastal municipalities. Local governments have a special responsibility to protect, rescue, and rebuild after natural cataclysms of the kind that are likely to increase as the earth warms. They also must grapple with the daily effects of climate change: unreliable municipal water supplies caused by droughts or flash floods and heat-induced air pollution that violates federal standards.

What's at stake in *Commonwealth of Massachusetts v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*? The Clean Air Act requires the EPA administrator to set standards for emissions of any air pollutant from motor vehicles or motor vehicle engines "which in his judgment causes or contributes to air pollution which may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare." [§202(A)1) of the Clean Air Act, 42 USC §7521(A)(1)]

Nearly 50,000 citizens submitted comments to EPA regarding the 1999 petition to regulate greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act. In response, EPA declined to reveal its view as to whether greenhouse gases are reasonably anticipated to endanger the public health or welfare. Instead, it articulated a reading of the Clean Air Act that contravenes the exceedingly broad definition of "air pollutant."

When the EPA administrator decided not to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, some 30 parties — including 12 states with a combined total population exceeding 100 million people — appealed to the D.C. Circuit for review. That court issued a badly fractured ruling, with one judge affirming the EPA's decision on standing grounds, another affirming on policy grounds nowhere mentioned in the Clean Air Act, and a third authoring a lengthy and blistering dissent. The dissenting judge wrote: "Indeed, if global warming is not a matter of exceptional importance, then those words have no meaning."

The scientific community has reached a near consensus on three points: "Global warming is occurring; the primary cause is fossil fuel consumption; and if we don't act now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it will get worse." [Eileen Claussen, "An Effective Approach to Climate Change," 306 Science 816 (Oct. 2004).]

In its amicus brief, APA pointed out that the harm caused by global climate change will be especially challenging for state and local governments, for several reasons. First, as has been made tragically clear in the United States in the wake of recent man-made and natural disasters, municipal governments are responsible for orderly evacuations from fires and floods, and local officials must plan and reconstruct neighborhoods or entire cities afterwards. Global warming is likely to lead to more disasters such as intense hurricanes and high storm surges crashing into America's eastern seaboard, one of the most urbanized and fastest growing parts of the country.

The Justices now have an opportunity to confront this challenge head-on. The issue presented to the Supreme Court is simple and cuts right to the heart of the concern about global warming. Can the EPA administrator decline to issue standards for greenhouse gas emissions based on policy considerations not

Green Material Expo in Troy

Wondering what else you could do to slow climate change and protect other parts of the environment? The Eastern New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects is holding a Green Material Expo on Saturday, September 23 from 10am until 6pm.

The one day event is a way for the public to learn about environmentally sensitive building products. Vendors will have their green products on display. Speakers will discuss the latest in technology and the latest in ways to pay for greening your home.

It will be held in the Uncle Sam Atrium on the corner of Fulton and Third Street in Troy, New York. For more information and the growing list of speakers and vendors, check out: www.greenmaterialexpo.com.

enumerated in the Clean Air Act? Furthermore, does the Act even grant the administrator the authority to regulate carbon dioxide and other air pollutants associated with climate change?

The Court's answer later this year or next spring may very well determine whether the earth's rising temperature goes off the charts completely or if this country will get serious about reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

If you haven't yet seen *An Inconvenient Truth*, Al Gore's documentary about global warming, you can find out more about the film at www.climatecrisis.net. It is both a compelling presentation of the challenge facing us and a call to action.

APA's action this summer will be to file a second amicus brief to support the Petitioner, Massachusetts, by addressing the merits of the case before the Court. Again, Tim Dowling will provide his strong support and drafting pen for this brief. We will ask the Supreme Court to direct the EPA administrator to adhere to the plain requirements of the Clean Air Act and to regulate greenhouse gas emissions upon determining that they "may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare."

Given the Court's recent decision on June 19 in the consolidated wetlands cases *Rapanos v. United States* (No. 04-1034) and *Carabell v. Army Corps of Engineers* (No. 04-1384), the fate of global warming may rest with the pen of a single Justice. In the (4-1-4) plurality decision, four Justices wanted to restrict the Corps' regulatory jurisdiction over wetlands, four wanted to retain its expansive interpretation of the Clean Water Act, and Justice Anthony Kennedy took the middle ground.

The result? The cases were remanded back to the lower court to apply the muddled opinion to the facts of each case. Undoubtedly, Justice Kennedy's direction to look for a significant nexus between the wetlands and navigable waters will be the focus of the lower court's inquiry on remand.

Will Justice Kennedy again strike the middle ground in *Massachusetts v. EPA*, or will we see greater solidarity among the Justices and, hopefully, greater clarity focused on addressing the catastrophic impacts of greenhouse gas emissions? This will be the case for every planner to watch in the coming months.

Lucero edits the APA's Planning & Environmental Law, and serves as staff liaison to the APA Amicus Committee. Reprinted with permission from APA. Copyright 2006 APA All Rights Reserved

Border dispute: Understanding Canadian licensing requirements

By *George McKibbon, MCIP, RPP, AICP*

I was asked why New York State residents could not be members in the Ontario Professional Planners Institute in Ontario. I was unaware of the situation and, as the Ontario representative on the Chapter Board, I promised to find out.

The Canadian Institute of Planners and the American Planning Association provide equivalent opportunities for Canadians and Americans to be recognized professionals across borders. Each organization recognizes the others membership's educational and professional work experience requirements and extends membership opportunities to members provided they successfully complete their exams.

In Canada, the planning profession is organized differently at the Provincial level. Provincial organizations are affiliates of the Canadian Institute of Planners and are much more independently organized than state chapters. These affiliates may have additional membership requirements, in part because of the varying legislative frameworks within which municipal governments operate in each province.

The provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick allow the affiliates to regulate who can be designated as a professional planner. At least two provinces require certified planners to undertake certain planning tasks before the planning instruments have been finalized. Examples include the following:

- In Ontario, a planner has to meet the membership requirements of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute to use the term "Registered Professional Planner" (RPP);
- In Saskatchewan, a planner must meet requirements of the Association of Professional Community Planners of Saskatchewan to use the designation "Professional Community Planner" (PCP);
- In Alberta, a planner has to meet the requirements of the Alberta Association, Canadian Institute of Planners, to use the designation "Alberta Community Planner" (ACP);
- In New Brunswick, a planner has to meet the requirements of the New Brunswick Association of Planners to use the designation "Registered Professional Planner" (RPP).

Saskatchewan requires comprehensive community plans be signed by "Professional Community Planners" before enactment. In Quebec, licensed planners have to be fluent in French.

Provincial affiliates are beginning to think about the question of membership portability between provinces. Ontario requires additional exams before providing full membership and use of the designation "Registered Professional Planner" whereas Alberta has no requirement beyond paying the required affiliate dues. Out of province membership is not permitted by the Ontario Professional Planners Institute.

I believe these residency requirements are impractical and, with further experience, changes will lead them to be more inclusive. For example, Ottawa planners living across the river in the Hull, Quebec cannot be members of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute even though they may be employed as planners in Ottawa.

In Ontario, the Registered Professional Planner designation car-



Ottawa's Rideau Canal is a civic asset in summer or winter.

(Photo: George Homsy.)

ries weight because private and public sector employers use membership as an important criterion for employment. Administrative tribunals which decide planning disputes recognize the designation as qualification for giving evidence. A fully qualified member can use the designations, Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners (MCIP) and Registered Professional Planner (RPP).

Comparable arrangements exist in some U.S. states. New Jersey requires a separate exam to become a licensed professional planner. The test addresses New Jersey's planning legislation and state plans. Licensed professional planners are governed by the New Jersey Board of Professional Planners. Furthermore, the law requires planning advice be only provided by licensed professional planners. State organizations only hire or retain licenses planners. While less extensive, Michigan also licenses planners.

As planning becomes more complicated and society relies increasingly upon planners for thoughtful and precise advice, governments will look to our professional organizations to ensure our members are properly qualified to ensure the best advice is given and our professional practices are reliable. As state and provincial certification requirements increase, issues of portability between them will become more important.

The best way to address these differences is to be aware of the differing requirements and obtain those professional designations you are eligible for. For United States AICP planners in New York, you are eligible for membership in the Canadian Institute of Planners provided you pass the membership exam. This will allow you to use the initials MCIP (Member Canadian Institute of Planners) with your name as you practice in Ontario.

Finally, it may be appropriate for the Upstate and Metro Chapters to reconsider whether licensing planners is needed and what form licenses would take to provide the best planning services to governments and residents in New York.

McKibbon is a planner with McKibbon Wakefield, Inc. in Ottawa, Ontario.

Section News

Capital District

In January, we had a luncheon presentation from Dick Patrick, former planning director for the City of Albany on his trip to Greenland and Iceland. We also sponsored two planning awards at RPI's Future Cities Competition for middle school students that created the best plans for a future city.

February saw a CDPA Social at the Mad River Tavern in downtown Albany. In March, we learned about the coming transformation of travel from John Poorman over lunch. May's luncheon presentation was by Brad Birge of Saratoga Springs on the city's proposed inclusionary zoning ordinance. Our luncheon series wrapped up in June with a presentation by Cohoes Mayor John T. McDonald on a variety of revitalization initiatives in the City.

The Capital District Planning Association hosted two APA audio conferences: Design Graphics for Planners in April, Housing Plan in May, and Planning Law Review in June. We also approved revisions to our section by-laws to bring them into line with the Upstate Chapter requirements.

Sandy Misiewicz

Southern Tier

The Broome County Department of Planning and Economic Development has begun the process of preparing a multi-jurisdictional, multi-hazard mitigation plan. The plan's development is being largely underwritten by a \$75,000 grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The plan will cover all municipalities with Broome County.

The recent flooding experienced by Upstate counties drove home the need for up-to-date mitigation plans. Communities without a FEMA-approved plan will be ineligible for federal disaster mitigation funds. Broome County's plan is expected to be submitted to FEMA in early 2007.

Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board (STC RPDB) is working on a Low Impact Development (LID) booklet highlighting LID work in counties across the Southern Tier. According to STC RPDB

Principal Planner Jennifer Fais, this work is part of the EPA Watershed Initiative administered by the Upper Susquehanna Coalition. The project will be completed in a few months.

Tompkins County Area Development has just completed a new Economic Development Strategy for Tompkins County. Vice President and Director of Economic Development Planning, Martha Armstrong, AICP, expects that the plan will be presented to the community in early October.

Frank Evangelisti



Cohoes Mayor McDonald briefs Capital District planners on revitalization efforts.

Genessee / Finger Lakes

Planners in the GFL region have had a pretty quiet summer. Back in the spring, the GFL section toured the Regional Transportation Operations Center (RTOC) just outside Rochester. This facility houses Monroe County DOT staff, as well as personnel from NYSDOT and the New York State Police. Through pole mounted cameras and computers linked to hard-wired traffic signals, the staff at RTOC is able to quickly detect and respond to traffic management issues, primarily in the City of Rochester and immediately surrounding areas. The Section would like to thank Jim Pond of Monroe County DOT, Jim Willer of NYSDOT, and Dan O'Hanlon, GFL APA Executive Committee member, for coordinating this tour. The section is planning a couple fall tours, including an alternative energy tour in October and a downtown Rochester tour/mixer with SUNY Geneseo geography students in September or October.

Jason Haremza

Cornell students in New Orleans

New Orleans, continued from page 10

cause the Community Support Foundation felt that they had "exceptional capacity" for planning, and could assist districts that choose to plan as a single group rather than individual neighborhoods.

"What is amazing about this announcement is that these students successfully competed against some of the nation's best and the brightest architectural and planning firms," said Kenneth Reardon, Chair of the Department of City and Regional Planning in announcing the selection to faculty and staff. The other four teams selected, all nationally recognized consulting firms, are H3 Studio of St. Louis, MO, Goody Clancy of Boston, MA, Frederic Schwartz Architects of New York, NY, and EDSA, from Columbia, MD.

George Frantz, who helped teach one of the field workshop courses that focused on New Orleans and the Ninth Ward said the ACORN / Cornell team had more experience in grappling with the Katrina disaster than their competitors.

"This is extremely exciting, but it's no fluke. This is the culmination of 9 to 10 months of work for some of these students. They've been in New Orleans, on the ground off and on since January, working for and with residents and ACORN to clean and gut houses, gather data, and to plan for a new future. They have a knowledge of the planning and recovery issues and a knowledge of the community that can't be gotten looking out the windows of a tour bus or standing along the Industrial Canal at a photo-op site. I think the Community Support Foundation review panel recognized that fact."

Lessinger is taking the semester off to coordinate the project in New Orleans. Most of the others will work from Ithaca traveling down several times during the semester.

The Unified New Orleans Plan is being financed primarily by a \$3.5 million grant from the Rockefeller Foundation and \$1 million from the Greater New Orleans Foundation. The plan is due to be completed by December 31, 2006.

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In This Issue...

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- Auburn-born planner comes home
- Grad students win New Orleans contract
- Much, much more....

**If your mailing label contains
the word 'Expired,' then you've
let your APA membership lapse
- and you might miss a lot.
Re-enroll now.**

Upstate Planner

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Cornell students win New Orleans plan contract

A team of Cornell University graduate students in the Department of City and Regional Planning have been selected from a field of planning and architecture consulting teams from around the country to assist in the development of the Unified New Orleans Plan. The group, including current four current students and one recent graduate spent the summer working for the Association of Community Organization for Reform Now (ACORN) Housing Corporation.

Emily Goldman, Frederick Hawkins, David Lessinger, Kerry McLaughlin, a recent graduate, and Andrew Rumbach are members of the ACORN team that competed with some 70 other consulting teams from around the United States to work on the ambitious city-wide plan to guide the recovery, reconstruction and future growth of New Orleans.

The New Orleans Community Support Foundation board, the body that will oversee preparation of the new Unified Plan, selected the team at its July 21, 2006 meeting. Pratt Institute, Louisiana State University, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and the New Jersey Institute of Technology, among others, are part of the ACORN team.

The students will work under the direction of Richard L. Hayes, PhD, (CU Class of 1977) director of special projects for ACORN as a technical assistance team to residents of the Ninth Ward and other neighborhoods. The team will be



*Cornell students will return to New Orleans' devastated Ninth Ward with a contract to help replan the neighborhood.
(Photo: Samatha Bosshart)*

notified around August 17 of the specific areas within the city where it will be responsible for preparing comprehensive plans. The plans are expected to be completed by year's end.

The ACORN Housing team is one of five teams that were selected to work at both the neighborhood and larger planning district level. ACORN was selected as a district planner be-

See New Orleans, continued on page 9