



# The Upstate Planner

*Making Great Communities Happen*

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Issue 1

## Planning for Disaster in Genesee/Finger Lakes Region

By Joseph M. Bovenzi

Disasters such as the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the massive Gulf Coast devastation caused by the 2005 hurricanes highlighted the nexus between land use planning and hazard events. Closer to home, the June 2006 flooding in the Southern Tier and elsewhere in New York reinforced public and professional awareness of this nexus. Planners must guide the growth of their communities to minimize the effects of hazard events.

Over the past several years, the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council has taken the lead in assisting local governments with hazard mitigation planning. Of the nine counties in the Council's planning region, five (Genesee, Livingston, Orleans, Wayne, and Wyoming) along with the village and town of Arcade developed an all-hazard mitigation plan with the Council's assistance in 2002-2003.

### The Planning Process

In All-Hazard Mitigation Planning dangers are identified and the vulnerability of infrastructure and special-needs populations is analyzed. Then local officials build consensus on ways to reduce or eliminate the threats. This process seeks to foster cross-border cooperation so that problems common to multiple jurisdictions can be addressed.

In each county, the process begins by forming a planning committee of local officials from municipalities and key county departments, as well as organizations such as the local Red Cross and Cornell Cooperative Extension. This committee oversees the process and provides information for the plan, which has two sections, Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy.

The Risk Assessment section analyzes the potential impacts of a broad range of possible events. It starts with a Hazard Analysis Report, a document that ranks and prioritizes all potential natural and

*See Hazards, continued on page 5*



*In the Village and Town of Arcade, the AHMP called for moving buildings (top) out of the flood prone areas (bottom).*

## Andres Duany tackles Newburgh waterfront

By George Homsy

"I'm addicted to studying failure," Andres Duany told his audience in Newburgh, New York. "And after studying the failure of cities for years, I have realized what cities need for success."

Duany, the godfather of New Urbanism, came to Newburgh with a team of architects, planners, landscape architects and engineers to lead a public design charrette for the city's waterfront. Leyland Alliance LLC, a Tuxedo, New York-based hired Duany after winning the right to develop 30 acres along the Hudson River.

In his talk, Duany explained that efforts over the past decades to compete

with suburbs cost cities dearly. "The planners came in and tried to make cities more like suburbs. That was a mistake because cities can never compete on the same terms as suburbs. For example, cities tried to offer more parking" but the urban efforts could never rival the acres of parking found in the suburbs.

At the same time, Duany said that the effort to make cities more like suburbs destroyed walkability in many places. "Cities are the world champions of walkability. It is the most important asset of a city and it must be protected."

Walkability alone is not enough, explained Duany. "Americans are very par-

ticular about where they walk. We have to be amused." He said that people like to walk by shops. Blank walls in cities are "enormously boring."

The challenge for cities, said Duany, is that suburban developers and retailers are "hypercompetent. Out in the suburbs, stores stay open when customers need them and they have great return policies. And let's take trash, it's something we all generate. But the malls are steam cleaned every day. It's not like that in a city, where trash might only be picked up once or twice a week."

*See Duany, continued on page 4*

## Research to help communities improve energy efficiency

Climate change impacts, increasing heating and cooling costs, and over-dependence on petroleum and other fossil fuels all mandate an urgent need for improved energy use and more alternative energy choices in the U.S. While more than 300 cities have taken action to address climate change, more communities need to take appropriate steps now to help reduce future energy burdens.

The American Planning Association (APA) and the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) are embarking on a three-year research and education project promoting clean and efficient energy strategies for communities. The goal is to encourage improved energy efficiency and increased use of alternative energy technologies in communities, helping to address the serious challenges of climate change and to save taxpayer money and boost local economies.

“Planners are in the most appropriate position to start guiding change in how communities comprehensively think about and use energy,” said Megan S. Lewis, AICP, APA senior research associate and project manager. “For planners to lead this change, they must have access to current resources and information.”

The first year of the project will bring together some of the country’s foremost experts in energy and planning to discuss how energy best practices can be integrated into planning decisions at the community level. Presentations, symposia, and other outreach efforts will disseminate research findings throughout the project. Information will be developed into a best practices manual, and subsequent years will involve creating and delivering a training program and making policy recommendations to federal, state, and local officials.

“Our project will provide the necessary resources to help communities start reducing energy consumption and increasing the use of alternative energy sources through where and how they build and where they conserve land,” said Lewis.

The need for such a resource was evident from a 2005 member survey conducted by APA and EESI. Survey findings showed that while planners are overwhelmingly interested in energy issues, they have difficulty implementing energy solutions due to a lack of information, training, tools, and technical support.

Funding for the first year is from the Surdna Foundation, the George Gund Foundation, and APA’s Environment, Natural Resources and Energy Division.

## The passing of a planner: Dan Sitler



By *George Homsy*

It is never easy to say goodbye to someone important. But that is just what I, and my colleagues, had to do with the recent passing of Dan Sitler – a leader and a mentor.

To watch Dan Sitler in action was to understand a simple truth – that a planner must bring his or her best to the table from the very beginning. Dan will be remembered for doing his best to make communities stronger around upstate New York.

I first witnessed Dan in action when he came to my then hometown of Canandaigua. I was awed by the way he helped politicians, property owners, and the public find ways to better understand and improve our Main Street. It was his expertise – and the fact that his prescription was right from the start – that attracted me to Saratoga Associates. It was not until after I joined the firm that I learned the enormous impact Dan Sitler had on New York State.

In its official biography of Dan, Saratoga Associates points out some of the bigger projects in his career. These include the Master Plan for the revitalization of Love Canal in Niagara Falls; planning and development of the Cornell Agriculture & Food Technology Park in Geneva; planning for the re-development of Bethlehem Steel plant facilities in Lackawanna, New York and Bethlehem, Pennsylvania; a variety of initiatives for the City of Amsterdam’s waterfront revitalization, its neighborhood plans, as well as its Comprehensive Plan. Most recently, Dan was the Principal in Charge of the much heralded development plan for the Harriman State Office Building Campus in Albany.

As I helped go through the boxes and files in his office, I saw the names of many smaller, yet vital places which benefited from Dan’s expertise. I would be surprised to find a county in the state that did not, in some form, feel Dan’s touch at some point over the past 25 years.

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## Duany urges planners to stick with basic principles

*"A comprehensive disaster" is what Andres Duany called planners' stewardship of cities over the last few decades. The New Urbanism guru was in Newburgh, New York to lead a weeklong public charrette. (See story page one)*

*Duany used part of his opening speech to criticize planners attempts to make cities more competitive by making them more suburban. "It was painful to see the cities being demolished," he told the audience. When cities continued to lose out to suburbs, Duany said, the public lost trust in planners. After his speech, the Upstate Planner cornered Duany in order to ask him whether he thinks planners can resurrect their reputations.*

### Planning in a Page

*UP: You were pretty hard on planners in your speech, claiming that we lost the public's trust.*

Duany: A lot of planners have done a lot to ruin things for the sake of developers over the decades. I consider some planners as butchers of the land, cutting it up and allowing anything for the sake of tax base. They've ruined many cities.

*UP: So what should planners do?*

Duany: Planners must get principles that they won't violate. They have to have principles and not just a process. Lawyers have principles. Doctors obviously have principles. Stock brokers have principles. Planners need to have principles that govern how they do their job.

*UP: What kind of principles are you talking about?*

Duany: For example, right now if someone wants to build something that interferes with pedestrian traffic, the planners simply try to be flexible and accommodating for the sake of the development. But they should not. They should not violate the principle that, in a city, pedestrians and street life are most important.

*UP: But that seems counter to what you're doing here. You have set up a public process for people to design their own waterfront, yet you have strong opinions about what that design should look like. Are you educating people to do their own design? Or just designing around them?*

Duany: You have to educate people. But there are some principles that cannot be violated in a city. Some things are just not up for discussion – for example, the vital role of the pedestrian in cities. Some people hear me say that and call it arrogance. But we have to say that there are just some things you cannot do and still create a vibrant community.



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## ***New Urbanist tells city to set some basic rules and stick to them***

*Duany, continued from page 1*

### **Americans crave predictability**

“Why do people live in suburbs, especially since its all third rate junk? The houses are junk. The malls are junk. Why do people live there?” Duany asked and then answered the question. “Predictability. The one thing that suburban office, mall and residential housing developers do is create predictability.”

If a developer wants to put up a building in a suburban office park, Duany explained, then the master developer or park owner simply hands the builder six sheets of rules that describe where and how to build. “There is no discussion or debate about changing the rules.”

“You have to be nuts to develop in a city,” Duany said sarcastically. “What happens when you come to a city? First you meet the mayor, who says, ‘we’re so happy that someone finally wants to come here.’ And then he tells you that his zoning code is a mess, so you’d better hire a good lawyer. And then he says that he wants you to meet all of these neighborhood groups.”

If a city wants development, then “you can’t have a free for all.” Duany emphasized the need to develop a zoning code that works and then sticking to it. “If you sell space in your building based on views of the Hudson, but then the city can change the code to allow someone to build in front of you, then you won’t invest in the first place. As soon as you lose predictability, then you lose value. Predictability is needed to

make a building owner’s investment safe.”

### **Getting the market right**

As cities seek to revitalize, many of them target the wrong market, Duany says. Focusing on trying to attract families is a mistake. “If you have a family, you should live in a house. Cities should market to young people and empty-nesters.”

Marketing also extends to how downtowns position themselves. “If it wasn’t so cruel, I could show you pictures of how incompetent your merchants are. It’s as if they didn’t ever stand outside the store. Sometimes you can’t even tell if the shops are open.”

A good storefront and a good return policy give customers confidence to buy. Malls, Duany said, work with merchants to make sure their shops are attractive to customers. And in malls, he explained, you can return things anytime. “That’s the norm now. In many downtown shops, you feel that if you touch it you buy it.”

Whether or not crime is a problem in cities, it is always a real issue, Duany said. “It’s the perception of safety that counts. People are hardwired to detect signs of cities out of control. If a lightbulb goes out, it has to get fixed immediately.”

*Information about the Newburgh charrette, including a video of the final presentation, can be found online at [www.newburgh-ny.com/devell/waterdev.htm](http://www.newburgh-ny.com/devell/waterdev.htm).*

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## Disaster planning prepares western New York

*Hazards, continued from page 1*

man-made hazards according to the dangers they pose to a community. Priority hazards in upstate New York include flooding, ice storms and winter storms, and hazardous materials spills.

After establishing priority hazards, the planning committee identifies all the Critical Facilities and Community Assets. Critical Facilities, such as, water treatment plants, police and fire stations, and medical facilities, are vital to the operation of a community. Hazardous material sites are included on that list.

Community Assets are not critical to the community's operation, but are important to cultural life. Such places include historic sites, parks and recreation areas, and wildlife refuges. Collectively, the Critical Facilities and Community Assets are the key locations to protect in the event of a hazard incident.

Lastly, the relation of hazard impact areas to the Critical Facilities and Community Assets is assessed. Using geographic information systems (GIS), hazard areas are overlaid with the locations of Critical Facilities and Community Assets. This reveals which hazards put which structures and facilities in danger. A typical Risk Assessment also includes an review of major past hazard events and a community profile of the county and its municipalities.

With Risk Assessment complete, work begins on part two. The Mitigation Strategy includes broad goals and objectives along with a list of specific projects, programs, and policies. As much as possible, hazard mitigation steps will reinforce and augment pre-existing polices and programs. The Mitigation Strategy also includes a plan for adoption and continued maintenance.

The completed plan is sent to the New York State Emergency Management Office (NYSEMO) for review and revisions. Once NYSEMO approves the revisions, it forwards the plan to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a final review. After that approval, the counties and municipalities adopt the plan and local officials begin implementation.

### One Community's Success

In the Genesee-Finger Lakes region, the first municipalities to develop an all-hazard mitigation plan were the town and village of Arcade in southwestern Wyoming County. Disastrous floods in 1998 prompted local officials to prepare a flood mitigation plan, which was completed in September 1999.

Building the flood mitigation plan, the village went on to

prepare an all-hazard mitigation plan. This plan was approved by FEMA in 2003. Since 2000, the Village of Arcade has used its two plans to obtain about \$670,000 in grant monies to assist with the implementation of about \$814,000 worth of projects. The village has completed or is currently carrying out five different projects.

The largest of these projects was to reduce the possibility of floodwaters sweeping through downtown. Village officials purchased a large open field just south of the downtown core and is transforming this field into a catchment area. During a storm, water trapped in the basins will gradually disperse over a wide area through a network of pipes. A grant of \$355,680 was provided by NYSEMO to help fund this project, the total cost of which is \$457,240. (Thanks to Larry Kilburn at the Village of Arcade for these figures.)

Arcade's other projects included the acquisition and removal of old buildings in flood-prone areas, the repair of a storm sewer, and the shoring up of a length of stream bank near the village's wastewater treatment plant. In short, all-hazard mitigation planning has proven a worthwhile investment for Arcade and has brought in considerable resources to the community. In the Genesee/Finger Lakes region, and across the state, local officials are starting to realize the benefits of all-hazard mitigation planning.

*Bovenzi is a senior planner with the Genesee / Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council.*

*Peter Manning of New York State's Quality Community program reviewed New York's top regional plans. with regional planners in the Capital District. He described how some communities and counties are working g closer together on cross-border issues.*



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## AICP Commission Makes Case for Certification Maintenance

The AICP Commission is considering mandating certification maintenance through a program of continuing education. A final decision will be made at the Commission's meeting prior to the APA National Conference in April.

The following description of the plan is excerpted from the APA website. You can read the proposed plan at: <http://www.planning.org/certification/maintenance.htm>.

The Commission is proposing that AICP planners take at least 40 credits of eligible professional development activities in a two-year period. Half of the credits will need to come from APA or APA-sponsored programs. The other half may be

from other registered educational providers. Up to 25 percent of the non-APA credits may be "self study" credits.

APA programs includes chapter conferences and programs, the national conference, audio conferences, CD-ROM training and other APA educational offerings. In addition, APA, its chapters, and divisions sometimes sponsor programs that are conducted by other organizations. Sponsorship means that APA or APA chapters or divisions have contributed to the development of the program or have supported it financially. Self-study credits can be achieved by reading books or articles that support professional development. Two hours of reading time will qualify for one credit.

### Time to get serious

You would not want a lawyer who is not a current member of the bar for your trial. You would not have an unlicensed doctor cut into your chest. Would you spend money on a building without a licensed architect preparing the drawings?

Think about it. In the situations above a single life or a single building hangs in the balance. Planners shape neighborhoods and communities for years to come. Our work impacts thousands of people, their jobs, their property values, their quality of life and so on. But anyone can consider him- or herself a planner.

Planning certification today is meaningless, which is why so few people feel compelled to attain it. A planner need only pass a broad, superficial test – and then is certified for life.

Planning now is very different then it was in the 1970s and 1980s. Laws change. Local, regional and national economies change. Theories change. Yet 20 years from now, if I keep up my dues, I will still be a certified planner. If I am still planning in 2027 the same as I am today in 2007, then my clients are in trouble.

I recognize that it takes time and money for planners to keep up their certification. But other professions do it. It is one of the prices we pay for constanly improving our craft.

Many people fear that the ranks of AICP planners will shrink with the continuing education requirement. That does not say much about the resourcefulness of planners. Planners can do what they should do best - work together to help each other achieve their credits.

Our chapter and its various sections can take the lead in making sure that AICP planners can get the credit they need. Already in the Capital District, planners gather six or eight months a year for lectures about local planning. At least four times a year, the section organizes audio conferences. Every time I leave these sessions, I realize that I learn things that will help my client communities.

Since its inception, the planning profession has been struggling to distinguish itself from civil engineers, landscape architects, and architects. We want the same prestige and we want to command the same gravitas. But before we can get others to take us seriously, we have to take ourselves seriously first.

*George Homsy is a community planner with Saratoga Associates in Saratoga Springs, New York. The opinions expressed are his own.*

### Unfunded mandate

The interpretations that APA made from last year's AICP survey about continuing education requirements are questionable. They do not support continuing education in the format that APA has presented, nor have they addressed the issues about loss of membership that will result if this requirement is approved.

This is not to say that continuing education is not important. The majority of AICP members continue to educate themselves. Personally, I have been to 11 training and education programs in the last two years.

Most members are not, however, taking APA or APA approved courses. This is because the courses are too expensive and/or they are not available locally. Under the proposal, this becomes a huge problem, as only APA courses or APA approved courses will count towards continuing education credits. APA wants to determine and control what courses are acceptable for continuing education and make money in doing so.

The worthy programs offered by the NYS Department of State, Department of Environmental Conservation, or Department of Transportation are APA approved. These inexpensive or free programs offer excellent training and are available to planners in upstate New York.

These state and local agencies do not have the time or resources to get their courses certified as APA approved. In essence, APA has set a mandate for continuing education and left the chapters to get state and local programs "APA certified" without technical or financial assistance, much like the unfunded mandates we get from state government.

The manner in which APA has launched this proposal also leaves much to be desired. There were also no letters mailed to AICP planners informing them of this proposed program (yet we continue to get junk mail from APA to buy the same book over and over again). If you aren't on the APA board, this may be the first you have heard of the proposal. And APA plans to vote on this issue at the national conference in April.

I have heard from many planners who say they will lose their AICP because they cannot afford the cost or the time. When that happens, they say they will drop out of APA as well. Is this what national APA wants? Do they only want urban planners from large cities and large planning firms as AICP members? That's what they will have if this proposal passes.

*Diane Carlton is the Regional Director for Public Affairs and Education for the New York State Department of Environment Conservation. The opinions expressed are her own.*

## President

**Michael Long AICP, RLA**

I have just completed my first complete two-year term. My most important function is representing the New York Upstate Chapter at the National Chapter President's Council (CPC) meetings. The spring CPC meeting was in San Antonio. As I was out of town on family business, Judy Breselor represented us. The fall meeting was in Fort Worth, and I attended several intensive sessions centered on the branding of APA and use of logos. I hope this conversation continues for some time.

National APA is discussing continuing education requirements for AICP members. This will have dramatic impacts on our AICP members. Hopefully it will increase the attendance at our chapter conference, which members may attend to get the required credits. This discussion will continue, hopefully, at the next CPC meetings in Philadelphia.

The 2006 chapter conference was hosted by the Central NY Section during September in Auburn. It was a very successful event. The conference was again co-sponsored with the ASLA. Other sponsors included: National Park Service Network to Freedom Program; Institute for the Application of Geospatial Technology; NYS Geographic Information Association; New York State Urban Council; and Cornell University. There were over 200 registered attendees. Bill Fulton, president of Solimar of California and native of Auburn was the keynote speaker.

The Chapter is accepting contributions for the Mike Krasner scholarship fund. This year we awarded our third scholarship at the Auburn conference. The Chapter continues to have people donate their time to the Executive Committee. Elections for the next two-year term have just been completed. Go to our web site [www.nyupstateplanning.org](http://www.nyupstateplanning.org) for results. The Chapter is also updating its work plan. The newsletter team of George Homsy and Diane Carlton has made great strides over the last year. If you have ideas for articles, please contact George.

Next year, the Chapter conference is set for September in Binghamton, New York. If you can help, contact Frank Evangelisti. We are only as good as those that volunteer to help us get better.

## Director of Legislative Affairs

**Holly Sullivan**

The legislature passed several important bills related to planning, which were signed into law in 2006, including training for municipal officials and historic preservation tax credits.

The first new law, which took effect on January 1, 2007, establishes training requirements for members of planning boards, zoning boards of appeal and county planning boards. Officials need to receive four hours of training per year in courses approved by the legislative body of each city, county, town or village. Training in excess of four hours in any one year may be carried over to another year at the discretion of the municipality. Cities with a population of one million or more are exempt from the provisions. To be eligible for reappointment each board member must have completed the minimum requirements.

The second law created the Historic Preservation Tax Credit, New York State's first tax incentive for the rehabilitation of historic commercial and residential structures. The new law establishes a credit against New York State income tax for the rehabilitation of

## Treasurer's Report

**Rocky Ferraro, AICP**

The Chapter operated on a \$22,300 budget during 2006. Actual expenses totaled \$19,511.95 and revenue was \$22,156.62 excluding revenue from the Chapter conference held in Auburn. The revenue includes \$3,516 in contributions for the Mike Krasner Scholarship fund. These funds are restricted to the Scholarship fund. The major expenditures during 2006 included the Chapter newsletter (\$5,880.16), Section Rebates (\$4,922), President expenses (\$3,200.79), the Mike Krasner Scholarship Award (\$1,500),

expenses associated with attendance at the National APA Delegate assembly (\$1,000) and the submittal of the necessary Federal and State tax and audit forms (\$875). The

Chapter also contributed \$200 to the Katrina Relief Fund.

The main source of revenue was the AICP and APA rebates from National totaling \$15,658.10, slightly less than the amount received in 2005. Other revenue sources included interest earnings (\$1,867.52) and advertisements in the newsletter (\$1,100).

The Section rebates, based on the number of members by type, were distributed to the Sections for the following amounts: Capital District: \$1,549; Central NY: \$545; Genesee/Finger Lakes: \$688; Southern Tier: \$597; and Western NY: \$1,543.

Unaudited chapter assets at the end of 2006 included Cash in the Bank of \$38,858.68 and Receivables totaling \$1,000. There are no outstanding payables. The Fund Balance is \$39,858.68, of which \$7,842 is restricted and dedicated to the Mike Krasner Scholarship Fund. As a result of contributions received during 2006, the Krasner Scholarship fund balance increased from \$5,826 to \$7,842. A \$1,500 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 2006 Budget and/or the 2006 Actual Revenues and Expenses, please contact me at [rocky@cdrpc.org](mailto:rocky@cdrpc.org). or call (518) 453-0850.

## Member at large / Newsletter Board Editor

**Diane Carlton**

For the year 2006 the major work consisted of assisting with the writing and editing of the Upstate APA Newsletter.

## Annual Reports

## Professional Development Officer Judith Breselor, AICP

The responsibilities of the Chapter Professional Development Officer (PDO) are to improve, enhance, and recognize the skills and training of members. The PDO promotes membership in the American Institute of Certified Planners. The PDO guides members in obtaining continuing education credit, and serves as a reference for planning resources. The PDO helps coordinate information and the exchange of ideas between chapter members and APA national.

Our Chapter can be very proud of our members who took and passed the AICP exam in 2006. In May our pass rate was 86% pass rate compared to 67% national pass rate.

I am absolutely thrilled to announce that in November 2007 the Chapter had a pass rate of 92%; 11 of the 12 members passed. As of January 20th, we are still waiting for release of those names. Many of you called to let me know of your success. On behalf of the Executive Board, congratulations.

In April 2006, I attended the PDO exchange held at the national conference in San Antonio. I participated in several discussions with other chapter PDO's about exam prep materials, professional development training and the nomination of members to FAICP. I attended a full day of AICP exam training so I can guide members who plan on taking the test.

As the chapter PDO officers we are authorized to grant continuing education credits to seminars or conferences held within the chapter. This year I granted credit to seven local seminars and conferences. As you are aware the AICP ethics state that as member, we have a "responsibility to Our Profession and Colleagues" and "we shall continue to enhance our professional education and training." It is requested that AICP members receive a minimum of 60 continuing education credits every three years. Of the 60 credits, 30 can be from local/regional training session. Although many of our members attend continuing education training locally, very few actually keep a detailed log on all courses eligible for credit.

At the PDO exchange we learned about the strong push by many new AICP members and national for continuing education in order to maintain membership in AICP. In November 2006, we received notification that mandatory training for AICP members may be decided this year. Emails were sent to our members seeking comment. Twenty-six of you responded and I forwarded your comments, minus your name, to national. Here are the results: 11 favor mandatory training, while another six support it, but with modifications. Modifications included, the opportunity for more flexibility in training programs, desire for licensing, fewer credits required, and more credit for local programs.

Six members strongly oppose mandatory training and four members are undecided but submitted opinions. Of the members responding I found that more members employed by consulting firms desired mandatory training, while government employed members felt it was cost prohibitive.

As of January 2007 Ellen Park will be PDO. Any issues pertaining to the AICP exam, mandatory training, or FAICP candidates should be forwarded to Ellen. (I am assuming the role of Vice President).

## Canadian Representative Bill McKibben

In the fall of 2003, I was appointed the Canadian representative of the Upstate New York's Chapter. The appointment was made to involve Ontario and Quebec members in Chapter activities. This innovation was inspired by Mike Krasner, a graduate of the University of Toronto planning program. He had many friends in the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) and the Canadian Institute of Planners (CIP).

Following discussions between the chapter and OPPI Boards, the appointment of an OPPI representative to the Board was made. Sandy Hay was our first Canadian appointment and I took over from him. My task is to facilitate the exchange of information on activities so we can jointly plan and promote Chapter and OPPI functions.

Because of our proximity and the interlinking of New York and Ontario economies, it makes sense that planners cultivate a relationship to share ideas and work together on matters of mutual interest. Many Canadians are members of the APA and the AICP.

In addition to helping advertise Ontario Professional Planners Institute events and Upstate New York APA events in New York and Ontario in 2006, I answered questions on OPPI and CIP membership, participated in Board meetings and activities and helped conference organizers and Provincial officials organize and present the Province of Ontario's Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe at the Auburn Chapter Conference.

Since the conference, I learned the Provincial Growth Plan won the American Planning Association's 2007 Daniel Burnham Award. This Award is given in honor of America's most famous planner and author of the landmark Chicago Plan of 1909. It is given to a plan that illustrates progress, community benefit, and contribution to the advancement of the planning profession. The awards committee felt the comprehensiveness of the Plan was a key strength. The Province of Ontario is the first recipient of this Award from outside the United States.

This Award is an important recognition not only for the Ontario government but for the many members of the public, municipal leaders, planners, researchers and technical experts who contributed to the plan's development. More information can be found at <http://www.pir.gov.on.ca/english/growth/index.html>.

## Southern Tier Section Frank Evangelisti

On April 6, 2006, the Southern Tier section held its organizational meeting at Tony's Restaurant in Endicott. At the meeting, the following officers were elected: Frank Evangelisti, Director; Daria Golazeski, Administration; Jennifer Yonkoski, Liaison Activities; Bryan Coates, Program Development; and Elaine Jardine, Professional Development with Laurie Kimball continuing as Past President.

In June 2006, the Southern Tier Section formed a conference planning committee to prepare for the 2007 Chapter Conference. The committee consists of the Southern Tier Executive Board, plus Dean Morgan, Debbie Standing, Josh Brown, Nikki Conklin, Jeremy Evans, Lora Zier, Julie Sweet, and Gail Domin. The committee has been meeting monthly, and it has been the primary focus of the section's activities. The 2007 conference will be held in Binghamton for the first time since 1987.

## Annual Reports

**Membership Officer  
Eve Holberg, AICP**

The Upstate New York Chapter finished the year with 833 members, 85 more than we started with. Our annual average for 2006 was 768 members. The largest proportion of members hold regular memberships, followed by students. Our challenges are three-fold: Convert students to regular members, retain retirees and – possibly most important – recruit citizen planners, that is, planning board members, into the organization. Less than a third (270) of our members were AICP certified in December.

The table to the right shows our year-end chapter membership by section. Capital District and Western New York are the largest. Our three biggest student membership sections are Western New York (SUNY at Buffalo and Buffalo State), Capital District (SUNY Albany) and Southern Tier (Cornell). In December, we counted 66 Canadians among our members. Most of these (50) are in the Greater Toronto Area and so are members of the Western New York Section.

We have 58 members classified as “out of chapter.” These include the APA staff members that are members of every chapter and Metro NY members who are on the northern fringes of the

New York Upstate Chapter Membership (by Section as of December 2006)							
Membership Type	CD	CNY	GFL	SOTR	WNY	Out of chapter	Total
Life	12	5	1	3	14	2	37
Regular	148	50	58	57	137	41	491
New Planner	6	3	2	2	5	1	19
Planning Board	6	11	5	1	9	2	34
Retired	6	2	5		2	1	16
Staff						3	3
Student	54	7	14	71	79	8	233
<b>Total</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>833</b>

## Annual Reports

Metro chapter, but more closely associate with Upstate. However, most of these “out of chapter” members use out of area mailing addresses and many are students using home addresses.

Your chapter board urges you to go to [planning.org](http://planning.org) and review your member profile to make sure contact information is current. You will need your member number, which you can find on your bill and on your Planning magazine address label. It is frustrating for you as well as for your section to be unable to connect with members.

**Capital District  
Sandra Misiewicz, AICP**

The Capital District Section was very active in 2006 beginning with an update to the Section By-laws. Six luncheon programs were held on the following topics: Planning stories from Iceland and Greenland, the Colloquy on the Coming Transformation of Travel, Affordable Housing, Saratoga County’s Green Infrastructure Plan, and the Town of Bethlehem’s Comprehensive Plan. Two evening social events were also held along with a presentation on planning efforts in the City of Cohoes from Mayor John T. McDonald III, the Chapter’s 2006 award winner for Distinguished Leadership by an Elected Official.

On professional development, the section hosted several APA audio conferences and is in the process of establishing a CD-ROM based training library. Section members also participated in the Upstate New York Chapter Board’s annual visit to a New York planning school - this year, University at Albany. In addition, the Section supported the UAlbany’s GIS and World Town Planning Day and the Annual Student Picnic. Finally, the section co-sponsored the Future Cities competition as part of National Engineers Week and the Annual ITE Transportation and Planning Symposium in the Albany area. The Section also continues to maintain its webpage [www.cdplaninng.org](http://www.cdplaninng.org) to provide up to date information on upcoming events.

**Western New York Section  
Jeffrey Lebsack, P.E., AICP**

The Western New York Section of APA had an exciting year, hosting numerous dinner programs and APA training events. The Section also publishes two newsletters each year, and holds an annual awards dinner each June.

We hosted four APA Audio Conferences in 2006. Attendance was somewhat disappointing, but we intend to continue offering these sessions to provide our members with professional development opportunities. We are looking at ways to make the sessions more attractive, such as adding a presentation by a local expert on the topic being discussed.

In March, we organized a dinner meeting to discuss the impacts of the new Seneca Niagara Casino in Niagara Falls. The meeting was sold out, and a fundraiser for the Michael Krasner Scholarship raised over \$900.

Our annual Awards Dinner was attended by over 60 people, and recognized the organizations and individuals who are making “great plans” to improve Western New York.

A dinner meeting in October featured a walking tour of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus and dinner afterwards at a former German brewery.

We hosted our annual student mixer with University at Buffalo students in November. The mixer featured the inaugural version of “Trivial Pursuit-Planners Edition”. The contest between a student team and a team of professionals came down to the last question, which (fortunately) was answered by the professionals.

*Good fortune is what happens when opportunity meets with planning.*  
Thomas Alva Edison

**Upstate Planner**  
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**In This Issue...**

- Disaster planning in New York
- New urbanist guru in Newburgh
- AICP maintenance debate
- Annual reports

**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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The 2007 chapter conference is scheduled for September 19 to 21 in Binghamton. The theme is 'The Art of Planning' and the focus will be arts and downtown revitalization, heritage areas/heritage corridors/greenways, and an environmental track. We hope to team with the New York State Heritage Area program as part of their 25th anniversary. So far, the special events include a wine tasting and dinner in a restored mansion that also functions as an art museum and science center.

### **The Planning Gauntlet is thrown: Enter your best in the Chapter Awards**

The 2007 chapter awards application will be posted on the chapter website by April 1. The application will also be distributed via e-mail to members with an email address in our files. The application deadline is July 7, 2007. Rocky Ferraro and Judy Breselor are co-chairs of the Awards Committee. The categories this year are:

- Comprehensive Planning
- Planning Excellence Award for Best Practice
- Planning Excellence Award for a Grassroots Initiative
- Planning Excellence Award for Implementation
- Public Outreach
- Innovation in Green Communities
- Outstanding Student Project
- Mike Krasner Professional Planner Award
- Citizen Planner
- Elected Official
- Planner Emeritus
- Section Achievement