

A Note from the Editor

Superstitions apart, FOCUS 13 marks the end of an unusual year, and we share the universal hope that 2017 has to be better... In December, the CRP community lost David Dubbink, a dear colleague retired since 2006. David was responsible for most of the environmental planning courses and conducted internationally recognized work on noise impact assessment (see Michael Boswell's eulogy for David in page 6). And throughout 2016 the world seemed to get nastier: armed conflicts expanded; terrorism became more global; millions were killed, starved to death or suffered from lack of medical care; extremism and bigotry worsened; the internet became a place for misinformation and hatred; human actions continued causing irreversible environmental impacts; basic human rights are constantly ignored; too many still lack appropriate shelter... the list goes on, and it only gets worse with the nasty politics taking over much of the so-called "developed" world. Within this complicated context, we need to remind ourselves of our mission and of what attracted us to planning: the planning profession exists to serve the public, to seek equity and social justice, to protect the natural and the heritage of the built environment, and to promote development through fair and inclusive processes. These principles make sense of planning and teach us how we can make the future better than the past.

Fortunately, not all was bad in 2016, including the fact that we are publishing yet another FOCUS! New department head Dr. Michael Boswell opens this issue telling us his priorities for the CRP department which will certainly help our students to contribute counteracting some of the disparities delineated above. In *A Planner's Perspective*, Chris Cark touches on a touchy subject: the ill-based public comments opposing a project during an EIR process. The Special Section features Christopher Benninger, one of India's most decorated architect-planners and one of this year's speakers in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design Hearst Lecture Series.

Following last year's successful inauguration of a section with peer-reviewed articles, FOCUS 13 includes two important contributions. Jake Wegmann and Jonathan P. Bell discuss the disconnect between the planning profession and code enforcement, revealing the classic conflict between policies and implementation, plan and reality. William Riggs and John Gilderbloom show us a causal relationship between walkability and life longevity through a study in Louisville, Kentucky. The Essays Section starts with a gorgeous photographic essay by Gary Dwyer, Professor Emeritus of Landscape Architecture. Gary's internationally recognized work reveals an astute and reflective eye for critically observing the nature of our complex environments. Ivor Samuels, an English urban design educator who often contributes with FOCUS, follows with a discussion around today's appropriateness of the seminal "Towards an Urban Design Manifesto" by Donald Appleyard and Allan Jacobs, from the early 1980s. William Riggs, Michael Boswell and Ryder Ross discuss their street design study using an open-

source application as a community participation tool for San Luis Obispo's Downtown Vision Concept Plan revision process. In the last essay, I describe the making and implementation of the Charles Center Urban Renewal Plan, the first step towards the revitalization of Baltimore's famous Inner Harbor.

In the Faculty and Student Section Michael Boswell and Christopher Read discuss how California's cities are integrating climate adaptation planning into local policy and practice. Evan Evangelopoulos and Cornelius Nuworsoo elaborate on the most common themes from form-based codes literature: urban form and quality of life, specificity to locality, community vision, sustainability, clarity and improved structure of the coding document, and efficiency in the application process. Vicente del Rio and Amir Hajrasouliha describe the Midtown Wellness District Concept Plan, developed by their graduate studio for the City of Ventura. This section ends with Kai Lord-Farmer, William Riggs and Adrienne Greve discussing the transportation element of the Campus Climate Action Plan, developed by a graduate studio in collaboration with Cal Poly's Campus Facility Planning and Capital Projects Department.

Mexico is the highlight of this year's International Section. Hemalata Dandekar, Vicente del Rio, Alex Chapman, Audrey Ogden, Kara Tobin, Melissa Smith, and Tara Ash-Reynolds write about CRP's exciting summer field trip to San Miguel de Allende. In the following article, Hemalata Dandekar discusses a study using social histories as a method to reveal Mexican urbanism and, particularly, San Miguel Allende's development. BSCR student Ana Padilla tells us how much she learned about urbanism and her heritage from participating in the Architecture Department's summer-long program in Mexico. Closing the section, seniors Augustina Remedios and Justin Sauder write about their participation in a summer program on disaster risk and emergency management in New Zealand.

As is our tradition, the Spotlight Section opens with Dr. Hemalata Dandekar's account of CRP's studio work from last academic year, followed by interviews with alumni Jimmy Ochoa and Orchid Monroy-Ochoa --both planners at Cal Trans, and Norm Allinder --Madera County, planning director. Closing the section, the abstracts of all master's theses and projects from the academic year.

The novelty in FOCUS this year is that Cartoon Corners will feature throughout the journal, taking advantage of blank pages at the end of sessions. As FOCUS founder and managing editor, I take great pleasure in putting an issue together every year, and in seeing the final product as a sample of what the CRP Department offers to the students, to the planning profession, and to the community. I hope you enjoy FOCUS 13, and that it may help us all move forward to a better future.

Vicente del Rio, PhD.
Professor and Managing Editor.