

January 2006

So... What has SPA been doing all fall?

Don't Forget About:

- Friday Noon Pizza in the 2nd Floor Atrium
- To check out the SPA Website: www.bsu.edu/spa
- APA Conference in San Antonio
- SPA meetings and Committee meetings
- T-Shirt Sales
- The Job Fair

SPA members have been busy this past semester, with activities including fundraising, parades, and pizza. Spring semester will be just as busy, but here is a quick look at what happened in the fall.

SEPTEMBER:

Classes and studio started up again in CAP's 40th Year (and will be the 4th year's last studio). Meetings and Friday Noon Pizza started up again, as well as the election for the final positions for the Executive Board. Undergraduate, Graduate, and Professors took off for the west coast for the field trip. They visited Oregon, Washington, and Vancouver.

OCTOBER:

CAPple Fest was held at the beginning of the month, as part of the CAP 40th Anniversary. Alumni Day brought in people from all over the country to socialize, participate in juries, and give lectures. A Planning Forum was put on highlighting what goes on in the day of a planner. A planning reception was also held. SPA became involved in Homecoming activities, as members walked in the Parade bright and early on a Saturday morning. Members had a chance to have a little Halloween fun at the social held at Scott Curry's apartment.

NOVEMBER:

Many headed down to Bloomington in BSU vehicles to attend the IPA Fall Conference. Members volunteered throughout the day, as well as attended sessions. A workshop entitled "I'm a Planner, Now What?" showed students what planners do as they work for the public and private sector.

DECEMBER:

Even with final projects and tests coming up, SPA was busy in the last month of the semester. A canned food drive was held as part of Friday Noon Pizza. All donated goods were given to the Muncie Mission. Candygrams were also sold at the end of the month.

And the Winning Logo Is...

A logo contest was held at the end of the fall semester. Members were asked to contribute ideas for the new logo. Many were submitted, which were then voted on during studio times. Here is the winning logo!



Second Year Update: Shelbyville

by Brandon Winter

The Executive Board

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2nd Year Rep.

Brandon Winter

3rd Year Rep.

Scott Curry

4th Year Rep

Gabby Biciunas

Shelby County. Shelby County. Shelby County. Shelby County. And more Shelby County. The entire semester for the second year urban planning students dealt with, you guessed it, Shelby County, Indiana. Under the direction of Nihal Perera, we were guided through each step of the planning process focusing on inventory, suitability, vulnerability, site selection, and basic site design.

Beginning the semester, we were introduced to the most wonderful, magnificent, perfect, user-friendly program, GeoMedia (sense the sarcasm?). Using a Shelby County Database, we created maps of topography, soils associations, and population densities. These maps, along with other information, were used to perform a suitability analysis for twelve different types of development within Shelby County: low density housing, high density housing, schools, commercial,

office parks, light industry, warehousing, conservation areas, passive recreation, and active recreation. A vulnerability analysis was then completed for physical systems of Shelby County such as soils, watersheds, waterways, riparian zones, etc. For both sections of the semester long project, reports and boards were created showing our findings on our specific topics. All the information was compiled to form one "black book" for future reference by other studio members.

With most of the information and analysis done for the entire county, the studio was split into five groups to play the roles of different types of planners that would locate and design a new PUD for Shelby County. We focused on the areas of Multicultural Planning, Smart Growth, Technology Planning, Environmentalists, and New Urbanism. In our

groups, we researched our roles and established goals and objectives our roles would focus on. Using these goals, we located possible sites for the new PUD of 3,500 dwellings, commercial areas, recreation, and schools. The final stage of the semester long project was to design a plan for the new community and establish its character. In a final report, a website, and a PowerPoint, we presented our new PUDs based upon our particular planning method.

By the end of the semester, through sometimes frustrating new material, we had been walked through an entire regional planning process. With the regional perspective of planning under our belts, we were ready to move on to a more focused and more detailed site planning studio in our second semester as future Urban Planners.

Third Year Update: Muncie

by Scott Curry

The third year Urban and Neighborhood Analysis studio was busy last semester conducting studies of several near-campus neighborhoods here in Muncie. Teams of two and three were assigned different neighborhoods to research and analyze throughout the course of the semester. The culmination of the project was the creation of neighborhood analysis documents that will be used by the City of Muncie in future planning efforts. Stu-

dents presented their findings to an audience of their peers, professors, community residents, and university/city administrators at the Muncie City Hall in December. The project was completed under the guidance of the City of Muncie: Department of Community Development and a federal grant from HUD.

The project included the labor intensive processes of mapping and evaluating the integrity of

every primary structure in the neighborhoods, and going door to door with resident surveys to identify neighborhood issues. In addition to these research techniques students utilized GIS software to create various neighborhood maps, took countless photos on community "windshield surveys," and used their own professional knowledge to analyze and draw conclusions about the issues facing each neighborhood.



by Gabby Biciunas

Fourth Year Update: Greenwood

Pictures from the Halloween Social

Thanks to Scott Curry for hosting the event. Be sure to attend



The 4th year students finished their last studio as undergraduates. The studio dealt with Comprehensive Planning. The main objective for this studio was to develop a preliminary, working Comprehensive Plan for the City of Greenwood. The planners of Greenwood provided assistance and guidance of the city and what the Plan was to entail. They provided a tour of the city and the areas that needed to be covered in the Plan. After researching different Comprehensive Plans and the goals proposed by the city planners, a list of sections were created. Small groups were formed to work on the different sections. Research and analysis was done, including field work,

contacting community businesses and organizations, and creating GIS maps. Different surveys were created in categories, such as general community, business professionals, civic leaders, and elected officials. The surveys were sent to every citizen in Greenwood. The results from the surveys provided assistance in formulating the basic and complex needs of the community and also supplied additional interpretations of the data collected. Jim Segedy conducted a charrette for the City of Greenwood in early November. The 4th year students dedicated a weekend talking with Greenwood residents and officials over major concerns and future ideas for the city.

As a result, there were three major concerns the charrette focused on, they included: parks and linkages, transportation, and the downtown. The 4th year studio along with the CBP created possible future solutions to the three concerns by the illustration of maps and drawings. An informal presentation was given to community residents. The charrette was included in the preliminary Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan was prepared and presented during an informal presentation to the City of Greenwood Planners, HNTB and the CBP. The CBP will continue working on the Comprehensive Plan. The 4th studio is quite pleased with the document of a couple hundred

APA Conference 2006: San Antonio, Texas

APA Conference is quickly approaching, so here is some important information.

FLIGHT

It will be cheaper for everyone to find their own flight.

HOTEL

We have reservations at the Hawthorne Suite from April 21-27. The cost will be about \$40 per person per day.

REGISTRATION

Online Registration is due by February 23rd. Students can sign up to volunteer and have the \$100 fee waived. This must be done by February 1st! Volunteer Registration can also be completed online.

POSTER COMPETITION

See Sean Northup for more details about this.

Be sure to check out the APA

website (www.planning.org) and the latest issue of the Planning Magazine for conference information. Also start researching all of the things you want to do and see while in San Antonio!

KEEP COMING TO MEETINGS FOR MORE INFO OR CONTACT SEAN NORTHUP!!

Big Plans for Spring Semester

- **Fundraising: T-shirt sales, Pizza Cards, and Valentine Sweets/Carnation sales**
- **APA National Conference in San Antonio**
- **Job Fair : Contact Alexia to join the committee**
- **Alumni Events**
- **Community Service**
- **Social Events**

Upcoming SPA Wire

If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for the SPA Wire, please contact SPA Secretary Naila Mattingly.

The newsletter will be e-mailed monthly for updates on SPA activities and other Planning Issues.

Be looking for more information regarding the San Antonio Conference!

Megan's Fundraising Update

After a meeting with Dr. Kelly, it was decided that it is impossible for our group to come up with a non-profit status. The legalities of the situation prove to be impossible for us figure out. However, we will be having other fundraising projects in the next 3 weeks that will help with

the cost of your trip. Dr. Kelly's "donation" is also helping a lot. It is still expected that the majority, if not all of the cost of the trip (hotel and airfare) will be covered. I am sorry to see this fundraiser fall through and hopefully we can learn from this process for next year.

If you have any questions please email me or call at 517-320-6097. You will be receiving other fundraising information in the next week that include t-shirt sales, pizza card fundraiser and Valentine Carnation/Sweets sale.

From the President...

Hello fellow SPA members!

I hope everyone had a restful break! With one semester already behind us, it is time to start preparing for our spring schedule of activities. This spring should be an incredibly busy semester for us, as we are planning many activities to be involved in.

First of all, our fundraising efforts will kick into high gear this semester. It will be important for everyone to take advantage of the opportunities to raise money for the national conference, as the trip is quickly approaching! Be on the lookout for emails from our fundraising chair, Megan Coler, for these opportunities.

Also, we are planning to host an urban planning job fair mid-semester. Watch for news on this event as it should prove very useful in finding an internship or job. Even if you aren't looking for a job, it will serve as good experience in networking and speaking with professionals in our field. Alexia Donahue-Wold will have information on how to get involved in the planning of this event.

Our big event of the semester will be the APA conference in April, and we hope to send as many members as possible. This trip is such a great experience, and I encourage you all to attend! Sean Northup is our APA rep, and

should be able to answer any questions you may have.

We are also planning opportunities to get involved in other ways, as well as a few more social events, of course! Keep your eyes peeled for emails from myself and other members of the executive committee on ways to get involved. We will be holding SPA meetings every 2 weeks to keep you updated. If you can not attend, feel free to contact me and I will be glad to keep you up to speed.

Thanks!
Brandy Sichts

SPA T-Shirts Coming Soon!