

## Conversations with Alumni Recent Graduates from the City and Regional Planning Department Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

*This section will always feature work by CRP alumni. For this issue, we sent out a brief survey to our recent graduates from the undergraduate and graduate programs, asking them some questions about their present professional work and their feelings about their education. Here are some of the answers from our “conversations”.*

### **Erin Bishop**

*Hunsaker and Associates San Diego, Inc.*

After graduation Erin obtained her real estate license. She currently works for Hunsaker and Associates, a private Planning/Civil Engineering firm in San Diego. She works compiling large, complex submittal packages, performing research at all the public agencies, submitting controversial housing projects to City staff, and managing the development team members (architect, client, developer, and outside consultants). Erin is considering sales as a next step in her career.

### **Scott Swanson**

*BCRP Class of 2001*

*Forestry Technician*

Instead of taking a traditional planning job, Scott started working as a Wildland Firefighter with first, the National Park Service, and currently, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Within the wildland firefighting profession, he has found that there are numerous upper level positions with planning related field work, i.e., Prescribed Fire Specialist and Regional Fire Planner. His advice to current students is not limit yourself to a strickly “planning” profession. CRP’s curriculum offers a broad aspect of employment opportunities to consider after college. He suggeste students should explore as many fields and subject matters as they can during school, and to get involved in student organizations and extra curricular activities. “You will learn more, as far as interpersonal people skills there, then you most likely will in any classroom.”

### **Michelle T. Brzezinski**

*BCRP Class of 1998*

Currently Michelle is enrolled in Brandeis University in Massachusetts and will graduate June 2005 with a Masters of Arts in Sustainable International Development. She has been involved in the Peace Corps, Historical Preservation

Planning of a Colonial (architectural styted) town in El Salvador. She plans on narrowing her specialization in International Project Planning and Development to focusing on social justice.

### **Alfredo R. Castillo**

*BCRP, June 2003*

Alfredo’s first job since graduation is with RRM Design Group working in very busy Central Valley Office as an Assistant Planner. He has have developed specializations in Community Planning, in terms of writing, and putting together graphics for small communities in the central valley, as well as skills in computer aided design and mapping work. These community plans usually include land use plans, circulation, parks and open space, and community design guidelines. Alfredo’s future plans include obtaining AICP



*Michelle Brzezinski*

certification, becoming more involved with the local APA chapter, and attending law school.

### **G. Brett Clavio**

*MCRP, June 1998*

Brett worked with ISOCARP (International Society of City and Regional Planners) on a Dutch sponsored transportation planning project for young planners in Cairo, Egypt last year. The project involved linking the island of Almere with the Randstadt Region and Amsterdam. He specializes in transportation planning, architecture & design. Brett is considering fellowship in Spain this fall.

### **Brandon Smith**

*BCRP, June 2001*

After graduating in Spring 2001, Brandon went straight into the planning field. He continues his education occasionally through extension courses and workshops (i.e. CEQA & land use law updates). The local government agency he currently works for often covers the registration and related costs for these courses, as they annually budget some funds strictly for the purpose of employee training. His first job was working for the City of Visalia Planning Department as an Assistant Planner since October 2001. He is still employed at the City of Visalia today. Like most entry-level planners in local government agencies, most of his initial duties pertained to public assistance and the preparation of staff reports to the planning commission, though by now he wears several more

hats. In particular, Brandon reviews all of the department's in-house environmental documents, works with the County LAFCo in processing annexations, and acts as a staff representative for the City's Historic Preservation Committee. His immediate plans are to become an AICP professional.

### **Edith C. Martinez**

*Project Manager*

*New Economics for Women*

Edith's first job after graduation was a Project Assistant for Non-Profit Developer. She has developed specializations in project management through design and construction. She is the project manager for the construction of a new 24-classroom elementary school to be sold to the local school district after completion in Los Angeles. Immediately adjacent to the school her company is also building 119-units of affordable housing with a community center. Her future plans are to continue developing innovative projects that incorporate a holistic approach with housing, school and recreation needs.

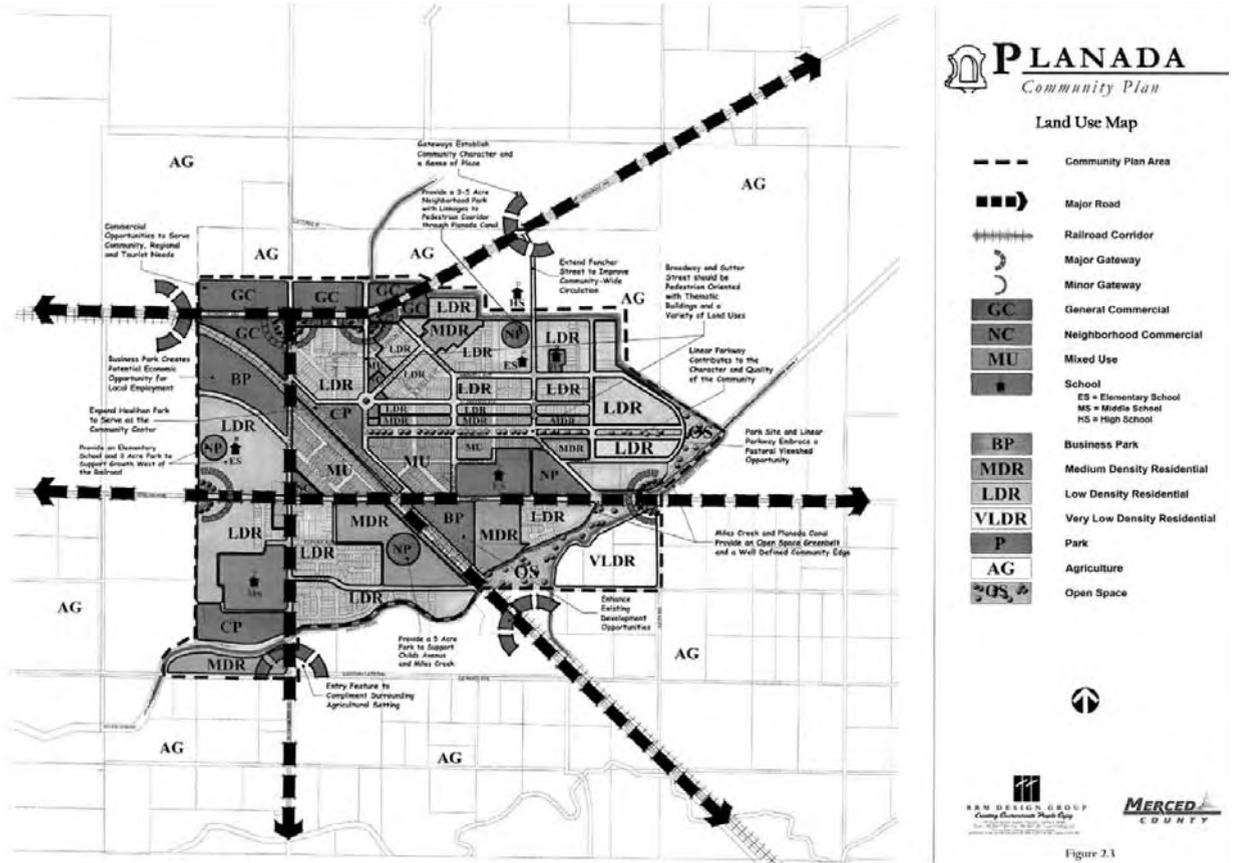
### **Norman Allinder**

*MCRP, June 2002*

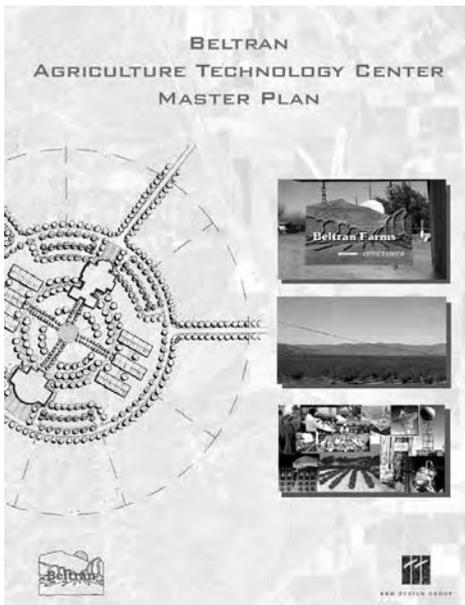
Norm first job after graduation from CRP's master program was with the City of Fresno Planning and Development Department. In Fresno, he utilized most facets of planning in a municipal planning agency, and his work included mostly large infill projects. He is currently working at RRM Design Group in Oakdale, California, where he is primarily involved in master planning for new neighborhoods. He is scheduled to take the AICP certification this May.



*Brett on the far side, during a session of the International Planning Congress in Cairo, International Society of City and Regional Planners - ISOCARP, 2003.*



Planada Community Plan, example of work by Alfredo R. Castillo at RRM Design Group



Beltran Master Plan, example of work by Norman Allinder at RRM Design Group