

FOCUS Volume 12 comes to press in my 7th year as Department Head of City and Regional Planning (CRP). It seems only yesterday that I arrived on campus to assume this responsibility. In preparation for taking on this role, whilst still in Tempe at Arizona State University and organizing my move to San Luis Obispo, I read the then six volumes of Focus, front cover to back. They provided a unique window on the inner world of the CRP family and began to answer my questions about what was driving the intellectual curiosity and the professional practice and priorities of CRP family faculty, students, alumni and friends.



FOCUS volumes revealed that CRP faculty were engaged broadly in areas of scholarship that prioritized practice; that CRP students were involved at various scales in cities through their studio practice corroborating what is widely recognized nationally—that studio-based pedagogy is a distinguishing hallmark of Cal Poly's planning programs; that the topics the MCRP students addressed in their thesis and professional projects were eminently practical and grounded; and, that alumni were successful and entrepreneurial in their engagement in professional practice. FOCUS provided, and continues to provide under the able editorship of Professor Vicente del Rio, a rich mosaic reflecting the intellectual core of the CRP family's deep involvement in the planning profession.

I note with great pleasure the evolution of FOCUS in these past seven years. We have moved to full color hard copy format, all digital versions are readily download, we offer an overview article that records and celebrates the "Learning from California" that students attain within all levels of our studios, and, in this volume, we introduce a peer-reviewed component that has great potential to grow in significance in the future.

The CRP Advisory Council (CIRPAC) was formed last year in May of 2015 and is composed of an energetic and committed group of Board Members who represent many different generations of CRP alumni. They exemplify the various venues in which CRP alumni make contributions to planning practice throughout the state and nationally. Their depth of commitment to CRP is revealing and attests to the intellectual and professional adventure their time in the department enabled. Providing long-term support for FOCUS is on their list of goals and priorities.

I will step down from the Department Head position at the end of August 2016 and will assume full time teaching in the department. I look forward to engaging with a remarkable and enthusiastic group of CRP undergraduate and graduate students

who populate our two degree programs and to the opportunity to reinvigorate my own research and scholarship. It has been a privilege to serve as Department Head. The responsibilities have entailed getting to know the CRP family. I have an enhanced respect for their legacy of excellence, entrepreneurship and commitment to the practice of planning. Learning about and from California, building the department and its capacities in a variety of ways, setting directions, and extending the network of planners and well wishers who comprise the CRP family has been an enriching adventure.

During the last year we took a hard look at our department and at our program goals and objectives. We elicited input from alumni including in the form of a survey that revealed our alumni successes, their satisfaction with their training and experience in CRP, and, their nostalgia for their time in the department. Our community-based projects, a signature element of CRP studies, have flourished and received increasing levels of sponsorship from communities to the point that almost all our upper division and graduate studios receive support. Our programs continue to be highly ranked nationally and our service and research has impact statewide and beyond. It is a legacy we can be proud of.

FOCUS flourishes and is made possible by volunteer efforts. We hope you enjoy reading this issue of FOCUS. It enables us to welcome you to our world and what inspires us.

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