

I am excited to introduce another stimulating edition of FOCUS, the Journal of the City & Regional Planning Department. Kudos and thanks to the editor, Dr Vicente del Rio, and all volunteers and contributors to this edition. At Cal Poly our primary mission is education, but we also see an important role for sharing with a broader audience what we have learned and what we do. In this edition, you will see that our students, alumni, and faculty make meaningful contributions to society. We encourage you to share your story, so please consider writing an article or essay for the next issue.



This year the City & Regional Planning Department is celebrating its 50th anniversary at Cal Poly. The program officially started in the Fall of 1968 with a Bachelor's degree and added a Master's degree in 1972. The first graduating class had 20 students, and CRP now boasts over 1,500 alumni that are practicing planning in California and beyond. We kicked off the year by celebrating the 50th at the 2017 APA California Conference. Our City & Regional Planning Advisory Council organized and sponsored a tour of the LEED Platinum-certified Golden 1 Center and a reception in downtown Sacramento. We had a great turnout and good times reminiscing about Cal Poly and CRP. We will continue our celebration with a two-day event in San Luis Obispo on April 27-28, 2018 including a Saturday night dinner at Edna Valley Winery. Please join us! You can find out the latest details at the CRP website: <https://planning.calpoly.edu/>

Last year, in FOCUS, I presented several priorities for CRP, and I want to share them with those who may have missed them. They include:

- Ensuring that our curriculum is preparing students to address California's most pressing problems including housing affordability, urban growth and livability, overburdened and outdated infrastructure, the climate change crisis, and natural hazards.
- Enhancing our classrooms with state-of-the-art technology so that students enter the job market ready to provide immediate value to communities and firms.
- Providing financial support to students in need; we believe that everyone who wants to be a planner should not be held back because of their financial situation.

We continue to make progress on these goals, and I hope you will embrace these them and partner with us. You can make a gift online at <http://www.caed.calpoly.edu> by clicking on the "give now" link and contributing to the CRP Fund for Excellence.

Finally, I want to express my sorrow over the loss of Dr David Conn. (see page 7). David was a wonderful person and a mentor to me. We had met when he was still at Virginia Tech because we were both in the field of environmental planning. Shortly after my arrival at Cal Poly, I was excited to learn that David was also coming to Cal Poly. In fact, since we both had made quick moves and our families had yet to join us, we were roommates for a while. As a new faculty member, this was an incredible opportunity. David was an experienced and very successful faculty member, so I had struck mentorship gold. We often spent the evenings discussing teaching, research, academic culture, career goals, and whatever else crossed our minds. I owe a lot to him and will miss his sage advice and kind words.

Michael R. Boswell, PhD, AICP
 Department Head & Professor
 City & Regional Planning

 A vertical poster with a dark green background. At the top, "CAL POLY" is written in large, white, serif font, with "City & Regional Planning" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. In the center, "SAVE THE DATE!" is written in bold, yellow, sans-serif font. Below that, the dates "Friday, April 27 & Saturday, April 28, 2018" and the location "San Luis Obispo" are listed in white, sans-serif font. Further down, "COME CELEBRATE OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY" is written in bold, yellow, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a call to action in white, sans-serif font: "For more details regarding on-campus events, the networking event at Edna Valley Winery and sponsorship opportunities go to www.planning.calpoly.edu." At the very bottom, a large, faint "50 YEARS" is visible, with "1968-2018" in yellow below it.