

Unfortunately, FOCUS 14 starts with the very sad news of the passing away of dear colleague and friend David Conn. A great teacher and a solid scholar who, for many years, was also a solid administrator as Cal Poly's Vice-Provost of Academic Affairs, David was a strong advocate for diversity and equity on campus. Former department head William Siembieda, who worked close with David for many years, shares a beautiful eulogy with us on page 7.

Although 2017 was a troubled year almost everywhere in the world, and certainly in the US, FOCUS points out to planning and design directions that can lead to better futures. Both Hearst Lectures included in the **Special Events** section do exactly that. Internationally renowned planner and designer Gary Hack, professor emeritus and former Dean at Penn State, reminds us how technological changes disrupt city patterns and introduce paradigmatic shifts, and discusses the impacts from social media and networking, new forms of mobility, crowd-sourcing, and eco-sustainability. In the second lecture, Andrea Johnson discussed the work developed at Terreform --a New York-based urban research center where she is research director—focusing on a project that investigates New York's food system and the possibilities of self-sufficiency. The Special Events section closes with a brief account of the successful third California Climate Action Planning Conference, organized by Cal Poly's CRP Department in 2017, in partnership with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. The **Cartoon Corner** provides us with good-humored contributions penned by regular contributors Chuck Barber and Dedé Rocha.

In the **Peer-Reviewed** section, three articles present us very different aspects of planning. Lineu Castello reminds us of the importance of planning and designing conversable places in a city: spaces to meet, relate to, engage in meaningful conversations, and construct a sense of place. Ivis Garcia and Shabnam Khan write about the perception of safety from crime and active transportation in a bike and pedestrian trail system in Salt Lake City. Evandro dos Santos discusses broadband applications, Big Data, and the role of technology and communication in the efficiency of urban functions and services, particularly transportation.

Opening the **Essays** section, Kobus Mentz and Susannah Goble, from Urbanism Plus in New Zealand, discuss a fundamental but very neglected aspect of urban design, urban economics, through some of their projects in Down Under. In the second of my two-part essay on Baltimore's sustainable revitalization, I discuss the process and the major elements that turned the Inner Harbor into such a success story and a model to other cities. Transportation planning for the Rio Olympic and Para-Olympic Games, and the challenges of maintaining the legacy are the themes taken by Simone Silva, Carlos Maiolino and Jacqueline Torres, all key members of Rio de Janeiro's planning team. Next, Anne Wyatt, CRP alumna and program

coordinator at HomeShareSLO, discusses one of the hottest issues in planning and an important affordable housing option: home-sharing. The following article by British architect and town planner Ivor Samuels is a call to go beyond promoting sustainable architecture through regulations, and to advance the interdisciplinary studies on their impacts on urban form. Brazilian architect-urbanist and plastic artist Aruane Garzedin comments on her role in provoking new perceptions and community engagement through public art. The section closes with William Riggs discussing the Ebenezer Howard's and Peter Hall's legacy vis-à-vis today's strong resurgence of a stronger focus on physical design and sustainability.

The articles in the **Faculty and Student Work** section are demonstrative of the range of CRP's studio and research-oriented work. Hemalata Dandekar's article describes her study on successful public and private workforce housing funded by California's Department of Housing and Community Development. Reflecting on the importance of sketching in planning education and in CRP, I present student sketches from an elective offered in 2017. Hemalata Dandekar, David Christie and Gabriel Ward describe the design vision and the development strategy for Newark's Old Town produced by a graduate studio for the City of Newark. Hemalata Dandekar and myself describe our third-year urban design studio where students developed ideas and development scenarios for the area between the Salinas River and the railroad tracks in downtown Paso Robles. The section closes with an article by William Siembieda describing a resiliency index for CSU campuses developed by students in his interdisciplinary elective "Hazard Mitigation Planning and Design".

As customary, FOCUS closes with the **Spotlight** section where Conversations with Alumni include BCRP graduate Nadege Dubuisson, now active in public health planning in Portland, and MCRP alumna Michael Heater, who recently served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Rwanda for two years. The section follows with Learning from California, where studio projects from the 2016-17 academic year are briefly described, and with the list and abstracts of all master theses and projects defended in the same year. Closing this issue, another **Cartoon Corner** with a contribution from Dedé Rocha.

Finally, a reminder: 2018 is the CRP Department's 50th anniversary! We crossed the half-a-century mark and, having FOCUS as a reminder, we get better every year! Keep an eye for our emails and on-line announcements, and help us celebrate participating in one or all of the events planned for this year. Enjoy FOCUS 14, and may your plans be a reality in 2018 and beyond!

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