

I am proud to introduce this edition of FOCUS, the Journal of the City & Regional Planning Department, that highlights celebration of the department's 50th anniversary. Many 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.



Each year in FOCUS I present several priorities for CRP that I want to share. This year they are:

- Ensuring that our program 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California's most pressing problems including housing affordability, urban growth and livability, overburdened and outdated infrastructure, the climate change crisis, and natural hazards.
- Providing financial support to students in need by increasing our endowed scholarships; we believe that everyone who wants to be a planner should not be held back because of their financial situation.

This year the City & Regional Planning Department celebrated 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. Our big celebration was a two-day event in San Luis Obispo on April 27-28, 2018 which included a symposium on the future of planning, a retrospective on the department's history, campus tours, a luncheon honoring retired professors Paul Wack and Zeljka Howard, and dinner at Edna Valley Winery. I want to thank everyone who helped make this a special weekend, especially our department staff members, Melanni Wiedrich and Janet Murrietta, donors and sponsors, and the members of our City and Regional Planning Advisory Council (CIRPAC): Ray Hashimoto (Chair), Bruce Baracco, Geoff Bradley, David Carbone, Michael Codron, Lynette Dias, Paulo Hernandez, Pam Johns, Peter Koetting, Steve Lynch, Martha Miller, Lisa Ring, Leanne Singleton, Delvin Washington, and John Wilbanks. The CIRPAC did the majority of planning and implementation for the events and deserve a big thank you!

As we reflect on our history and successes, we looking forward into 2019 and the future. The new year will begin with a site visit from the Planning Accreditation Board. Two faculty members from other universities and a practitioner will review our self-study report, visit the campus for three days, and assess the state of the program. These assessments are useful for getting an external perspective on how we are doing and holding us accountable for providing a quality education. We will use the visit and report to help launch a full assessment of the curriculum to ensure that it meets of the needs of a 21st century planning education. We will solicit your input and advice in an upcoming survey.

- Increase enrollment in the graduate program and increase the diversity of students in the program through marketing, scholarships, and commitments to inclusivity.

I hope you will embrace these goals as well and partner with us; we welcome your advice and help. 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 draw your attention to the section in this edition written by four of our former department heads. On behalf of the Cal Poly family I want to thank them for their service and for building a great city and regional planning program. Our students are bright and enthusiastic, our alumni are successful and influential, and our faculty are innovative and dedicated. What an incredible legacy! #CalPolyProud

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