NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

It is my time to write about FOCUS, the California APA award winning journal, and what it means in the overall scheme of the City and Regional Planning Department. This is a year of transition for CRP. In 2007, we were ranked in the top 20 national planning programs by reputation, and in the top ten in three subject areas: plan making, zoning administration and technology. This is simply outstanding for a non-PhD granting institution. We hope to maintain, and even advance our rank in the future. The work presented in this issue demonstrates why CRP is a program of national significance and regional impact in California.

Part of this issue reflects CRP's continuing desire to make student learning relevant. The articles by Adrienne Greve and Jeff Hook about what they do in their classes provide some insight into what we do and who we are. Our students are on the cutting edge of new design and development research--as indicated by the articles on comparative design methods and LEED ND, in this issue. Read them and learn what is happening and how the research tries to separate the truth from the marketing hype. The tribute article for professor emeritus Michael McDougall shows the quality of faculty that CRP has been blessed with over the years, and how their teaching was based in practice. This legacy continues in CRP, as we do strive to link learning to professional practice throughout the educational experience for our students.

CRP is now more international than ever before. This is a good thing, as it fulfills part of the university overall mission statement for educating a more globally aware student. There are four articles with international content provided by students and alumni. These form a rich set of experiences. Jennifer Venema, for example, is the first CRP student to ever intern at the UN's HABITAT headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. I would also like to note that CRP has identified alumni practicing city planning in six countries outside of the US (e.g. England, Spain, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico, and Hong Kong). Faculty are also working to bring more international content to CRP as reflected in the del Rio article. We are also happy to share with you that Vicente del Rio and I are publishing a new book entitled *Contemporary Urbanism in Brazil: After Brasilia* this coming fall.

Making California safer has been a new effort for a team of CRP faculty. Ken Topping, Michael Boswell and myself partnered with the California Governors Office of Emergency Services to prepare the 2007 State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Plan addresses disaster risks in California, creates goals for mitigation and explains how the State works to mitigate disaster impact. The Federal Disaster Management Agency (FEMA) gave the Plan "Enhanced" status, opening up the way for California to receive millions of

additional federal aid support funds in the case of future declared disaster events. Ken Topping's article in this issue discusses this effort.

This is the year CRP turns 40 years old, and will are hoping that the sixth issue of FOCUS will be devoted to looking at our wonderful alumni, what they have done, what CRP has done for them, how they influence the practice of planning, and who they are now as people. It is also a good time for us to think about the contribution that CRP has made over the years to planning in California. We invite all of you to share with us any stories, thoughts, pictures, documents, or simply good times.

One aspect of FOCUS I wish to share is that we produce this wonderful annual volume with volunteer faculty and student support. Our managing editor, Vicente del Rio, and associate editor, Umut Toker, create FOCUS as part of their departmental service. We thank them and hope that you too appreciate their effort and dedication. As always, FOCUS is privately supported, so please think about becoming a supporter of this journal. We welcome articles by alumni and other planning professionals.

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