



**Georgia
Tech**



**College of
Architecture**

Urban Connections

The City and Regional Planning Newsletter
February 2005

Graduate City and Regional Planning Program
College of Architecture
Georgia Institute of Technology
245 4th St., Rm. 204
Atlanta, GA 30332-0155



Urban Connections

City and Regional Planning

February 2005

Volume 1, Issue 1

Welcome!



Letter from the Program Director

Welcome to our new City & Regional Planning online newsletter. We hope you will find it interesting, and you will be inspired to send us a quick update on your activities for future newsletters.

University, and I think you'll agree that she is a pleasure to work with. Check out the article below describing her background more thoroughly. Please join me in welcoming her to our staff.

This year the City and Regional Planning Program is being reviewed for reaccreditation, and the site visit team will be here on February 21-23, 2005. We will be contacting specific alumni to participate in this visit, sharing your experiences with the site team. If you are called upon, I hope you will be able to do so and that you'll find it an interesting, rewarding experience.

I hope you will tune in and continue to stay in touch with the Program.

— Cheryl Contant
Program Director



Cheryl Contant, Program Director of Georgia Tech's City and Regional Planning Program. Cheryl is teaching Advanced Planning Methods to graduate students.

We will publish the newsletter monthly during the academic year (September through May), so check out our website each month for the latest and greatest!

When you call or stop by, you may be surprised to see that we have a new person at the front desk of the City & Regional Planning offices. She is our new Administrative Coordinator, Debra Jones. She comes to us from Georgia State

A New Face at the City and Regional Planning Office

This spring semester Debra Jones joins the staff of the City and Regional Planning program as the new Administrative Coordinator. You'll see Debra at the front desk in the planning office.

Before coming to Georgia Tech, Debra worked in the College of Education at Georgia State. There she worked as Administrative Coordinator for the director of development.

She moved to Atlanta from Michigan in 2002. Debra grew up in Battle Creek Michigan. Battle Creek, also known as "Cereal City," is the headquarters for the Kellogg Company.

She started off her career at Kellogg before moving over to the Battle Creek Public School system. She spent thirteen

years in the school system. Debra says her years in the public school system have given her a high regard for teachers. Debra While in Michigan Debra also worked at Western Michigan University.

She says she enjoys living in Atlanta and is already getting used to the Southern climate.

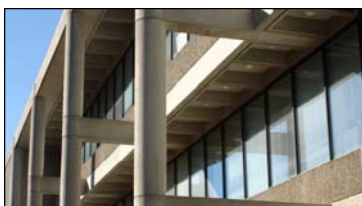
Debra says it's "a blessing" to be able to work at Georgia Tech.



Debra Jones, the new Administrative Coordinator for the City and Regional Planning Program.

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Upcoming Events



Meeting for the Healthy Places Research Group

The Healthy Places Research Group (HPRG) will meet on Tuesday, March 1, from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m., at the Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development (CQGRD).

The center is located in Technology Square, ED Building, 760 Spring Street, Suite 213, Atlanta.

The topic will be the Neighborhood Parks and Active Living Research Project conducted by Emory University, Georgia Tech, the University of Georgia, Georgia State University, and the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dr. Howard Frumkin and Dr. Karen Mumford, both with Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, will present findings to date.

Anyone interested in the relationship between health and the built environment is encouraged to attend. For more information about HPRG visit www.coa.gatech.edu/cqgrd/Projects/Healthy_Places.htm or call CQGRD at 404-385-5133.

Dates to remember:

- Don't miss **First Friday** on **February 4th**. We meet around 6 p.m. at Manuel's Tavern on Highland Avenue.
- The Super Bowl is February 6th! Play the **Super Bowl Squares** game in the Planning Studio for a chance at winning money while also donating to the **Student Planning Assoc.** at the same time!
- The **Student Planning Assoc.** is organizing a bowling event on **February 19th**. Games cost \$2.25 per person and shoes are \$3.
- **ULI Atlanta - 2005 Real Estate Trends Conference**. Wednesday, **February 16**, 2005. Location: Cobb Galleria Centre Two Galleria Parkway Atlanta, GA 30339. More information at ULI.org
- School Accreditation for the City and Regional Planning Program at Georgia Tech. **February 21st through 23rd**.

Continued →



2005 APA Conference in San Francisco

According to the website for the American Planning Association (planning.org), last year over 5,200 planners attended the 2004 American Planning Association's National Planning Conference in Washington, D.C.

This year's APA Conference is in San Francisco. The conference runs from March 19 to the 23rd—during Georgia Tech's Spring Break.

If you haven't already, find more about the conference by logging on to planning.org/2005conference/.

The Georgia Tech CRP program will have a

reception on Monday the 21st for current students, alumni and affiliates during the conference.

Current CRP students can sign up in the planning studio to coordinate flights to San Francisco and sharing a hotel in the Bay City.



The view from Coit Tower. This year's conference will be held in the "City by the Bay."

Dates to remember continued:

- 2005 APA San Francisco Conference, **March 19th through 23rd**.
- Prospective students are invited to attend our annual **Open House** for the City and Regional Planning Program on **Friday, April 8, 2005**.

ULI's Urban Design Competition Underway

The Urban Land Institute's Urban Design Competition gets underway this month. Georgia Tech didn't compete in the competition last year, but this time Tech has several teams competing in the contest.

They'll be sending their materials in by

Monday, February 7th. Finalists in the competition will be announced by Monday, February 28, 2005. A winner won't be chosen until April 1st. The ULI competition asks planning, architecture, and other students in design-related disciplines to come up with proposals for a real site. Students write a written report, along with a series of schematic drawings.

This year's contest deals with a large tract of land in suburban Salt Lake City, Utah. More information at <http://udcompetition.uli.org/>.



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Alumni News

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Glatting Jackson Promotes CRP Graduate

Troy Russ works in Glatting Jackson's Atlanta office

Troy Russ ('93) is senior urban designer and transportation planner with 12 years experience integrating urban design strategies and transportation solutions for redeveloping suburban and urban environments. Troy has a Master of City Planning from Georgia Tech and a Bachelor of Environmental Design from the University of Colorado.

Troy is the director of Glatting's Urban Design and Transportation Service Group. The team's urban design practice is aimed at integrating land use and transportation initiatives and is recognized for creating

livable communities with balanced transportation systems that contribute to, not burden, a community's physical, social, and economic quality of life.

Over the last five years, Troy has managed award winning redevelopment initiatives in Winter Park, FL; Chattanooga, TN; and Eugene, OR. His resume of work also includes expertise in transit oriented development, managing station area planning initiatives for eight transit corridors and over eighty station areas.

Troy is working with the Federal Transit

Administration in reviewing the land use components of the Federal New Starts Process.

Currently, Troy's major assignments include working with Charlotte, NC in managing the Station Area Planning efforts, implementing the CATS Systems Plan for their five transit corridors and over fifty transit station areas, and working with the New Jersey Department of Transportation leading the conversion of State Route 29 from a limited access freeway to an urban riverfront boulevard in Downtown Trenton.

CRP Graduate Promoted, Appointed Newsletter Editor

Tyler Frazier ('01) was hired during the first week of January as Senior Planner for the City of Cape Coral, Florida. Tyler specialized in Environmental Planning at Tech and went to the Savannah College of Art and Design for his undergraduate degree in Architectural History.

Before moving into the position in Cape Coral, Tyler worked for the zoning division in Lee County, Florida for a year and a half. He has also worked for Glynn County, Georgia from 2001 to 2003.

Tyler passed the AICP exam in May last year. Along with his new position with Cape Coral, he has recently been appointed as newsletter editor for the Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy Division of the APA. Tyler says he's looking forward to the upcoming APA conference.

CRP Graduate Promoted to Planning Director

Mark Satterlee continues his planning career in Vero Beach, Florida

Mark Satterlee ('90) has been promoted to Planning Director at the City of Vero Beach, Florida. His first job after graduating was as a Code Enforcement Officer for Vero Beach.

Satterlee has been with the City ever since. Over the last fourteen years, he's worked as a Planner II, Senior Planner and Assistant Director. He

was promoted to Planning Director in July 2004. He supervises three other AICP planners.

Mark is originally from Minnesota. He worked in the Minnesota Legislature after graduating from Macalester College with a bachelor's degree in Urban Studies degree in the 1980s. While at Tech he interned for the

Georgia Housing and Finance Authority.

Satterlee says his community places a high value on planning. Founded in 1919, the city now has a population of 17,900. Over the years Vero Beach has resisted much of the dense, high rise development that is common on Florida's east coast.

Satterlee says the city has used ordinances and policies that help preserve the low rise, low density character. With all the pressures of development in the area, Marks says, "people in the community demand a high level of service." He says going to Georgia Tech was the "best money I ever spent on education."



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Features

Georgia Tech's campus continues to grow. These stories highlight some of the most recent projects.

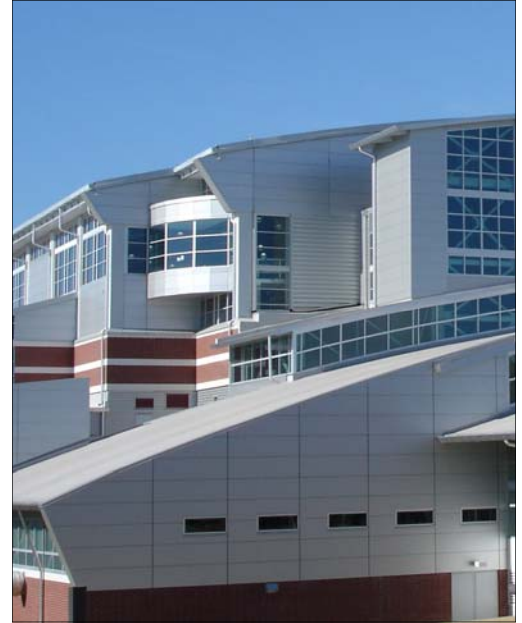
New Campus Recreation Center Open

The Georgia Tech campus changed in a big way in 2004.

The new Campus Recreation Center opened up to students and faculty just in time for the fall semester in August 2004.

The monumental 289,000 square foot facility features state of the art athletic equipment. Treadmills and stair climbers contain lcd television screens that can display dozens of cable channels.

The facility also includes a rock climbing wall that towers 35-feet inside the gym. The new and improved aquatic center contains a water slide, hot tub and lazy river. The facility cost forty-four million dollars and construction began in November 2001.



A detail of the new Campus Recreation Center at Georgia Tech.

For information on the building's hours of operation, log on to <http://www.crc.gatech.edu/geninfo.php#hoursofop>. The facility is closed during home football games.

Students with a Georgia Tech parking permit can use their buzzcards to park at the facility on the weekend and during the week from 5:30 to 8 a.m. and from 4:30 p.m. to midnight.



The facility was built around the Aquatic Center used in the 1996 Olympics.



Crews closed the south side of the bridge to pedestrians, but the north side will remain open until work on the south is completed.

Construction Underway on Fifth Street Bridge

Crews started work in September 2004 on the Fifth Street bridge, connection Georgia Tech to Technology Square.

The existing bridge spans the divide the I-75/I-85 creates between Midtown and Georgia Tech. The construction project will widen the bridge and feature park-like space lining the sidewalks and street.

Georgia Tech and the Georgia Department of Transportation teamed up for the project. GDOT is funding the \$10 million-plus project. Work on the bridge is being done in sections to

minimize disruption to pedestrian and automobile traffic.

Construction work is expected to be completed by November 2006. Architecture firm Smallwood, Reynolds, Stewart, Stewart & Associates, Inc. developed the new design for the bridge.

The design is intended to complement Technology Square and provide a stronger link between both Tech Square and the main campus.



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Program News

Keeping you up to date with the City and Regional Planning Program

Faculty/Staff Involvement:

Dr. Nancey Green Leigh (Professor, City & Regional Planning Program) served as the guest editor of the just published February 2005 Journal of Planning Literature special issue on Smart Growth (Vol 19, No. 3). Leigh and COA doctoral candidate, Sugie Lee, are co-authors of one of the issue's articles, titled, "The Role of Inner Ring Suburbs in Metropolitan Smart Growth Strategies."

Studies (GIS), and graduate student Sugie Lee have completed a study on mitigation measures for urban heat islands as a strategy for addressing Atlanta's air pollution problem.

In July, Professor David S. Sawicki, FAICP, became the new editor of the *Journal of the American Planning Association (JAPA)*. He will succeed Deborah Howe, FAICP, Carl Abbott, and Sy Adler, who have been co-editors of the quarterly publication since July 1998. Sawicki earned his Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning from Cornell University in 1971. He was director of the City and Regional Planning Program

News Briefs from the College of Architecture Newsletter:

Steven French, professor of City and Regional Planning and director of the Center for Geographic Information



at Tech from 1983 to 1992.

For more information on these stories, please read the latest edition of the College of Architecture Newsletter. You can find it online at:

<http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/coanewslet.htm>



Flashback

Fall semester, 1952: Georgia Tech's first City Planning class poses in the conference room of the old architecture building.

From left to right: Gerhard Sidler (Architecture, Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, Switzerland), William H. Quall (Architecture), Edwin H. Folk (Engineering, Princeton), Fedizo Vasconez (Architecture, Quito, Ecuador), Logan A. McKee Jr. (Engineering, Princeton), Arthur A. Mendoza (Sociology, Emory), Robert C. Glasscock (Architecture, Georgia Tech), Edward W. Foote (Engineering), Kamel S. Shehayib (Architecture, Cairo), Ross Buck (Engineering).

On the web at:

www.coa.gatech.edu/crp/

For information on hiring a student:

www.coa.gatech.edu/crp/employers/employers.htm

We'd like your help or input. If you want to contribute information and news to this publication, please contact Stephen Conschacter at gtg132w@mail.gatech.edu

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Tech Planning Students Hike Atlanta's Beltline

By: Byron Rushing (MCRP, 2006)

Braving cold weather on January 23rd, a group of seventeen city planning students set out from Ansley Mall to explore one of Atlanta's most promising transportation projects. The group got a first hand look at the northeastern section of the proposed Beltline transit corridor.

The northeastern section, which was recently purchased by a private developer, stretches from Piedmont Park and ends at the rail yard on Dekalb Avenue. First proposed by Tech alum Ryan Gravel, the Beltline follows mostly inactive or underused rail lines for a twenty-two mile loop around the city.

Even though the Beltline crosses some of the busiest road corridors in the city, the route follows the edges of many older areas and sneaks past everyday view. Many local residents do not realize how close the route passes to their neighborhoods. But by putting their feet to the rails, the group of Tech students saw first hand how the project will benefit dozens of major new in-town

developments. The group also encountered many of the challenges that face the project, including kudzu choked valleys, well-established homeless camps, and encroaching development in a fast growing section of town.

Yet positive support about the project continues to grow. Gravel first proposed the project in his Master's thesis and now heads the non-profit group Friends of the Beltline, along with former City Council chair Cathy Wollard, to raise support and advocate for the project. His vision of the project includes a multi-use trail, a network of linear parks, and eventually a trolley or light-rail transit system.

The Trust for Public Land recently released a plan outlining a bold greenspace project and the Blank Foundation has donated millions for buying new park space along the route. As Tech students continue to help shape the future of the Atlanta, the Beltline promises to be one of the most exciting and beneficial projects for both the city and the region.

— *Byron is a first-year planning student at Georgia Tech.*



Views from the Beltline: Ryan Gravel leads the team through tracks near Ansley Mall.