

# NEWSBRIEF



American Planning Association  
Virginia Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

A Publication of the Virginia Chapter of the  
American Planning Association

SPRING 2009



## CHAPTER'S FOCUS ON ETHICS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY RECOGNIZED BY APA

**By Jeryl Rose Phillips, AICP,  
President**

The APA Chapter President's Council has honored the APA Virginia Chapter's Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee (ECDC) and Programs with its 2009 Karen B. Smith Award for Outstanding Service to Community. The award presentation will be made in April at the APA National Conference in Minneapolis. Committee Co-Chairs, B. Leon Hughes, Spotsylvania County Assistant Planning Director, and Joseph Curtis, AICP, a Transportation Planner with Parsons Brinkerhoff's Norfolk office, will travel to Minneapolis to receive this award on behalf of the ECDC and Chapter.

The ECDC was established in 2004 with the help of an APA Chapter President's Council (CPC) grant. It

was done so with the Board's recognition of the Chapter membership's growing diversity and of the growing planning and regulatory challenges facing the Commonwealth of Virginia with regard to planning for persons of diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds or inclinations. The ECDC serves to fulfill the Chapter Board's commitment to demonstrate leadership in APA and in Virginia, by placing an emphasis on growing this aspect of our membership and to advocate for ethnic and cultural diversity and inclusiveness in planning policies and regulation; and, with an ever-present reminder that diversity does not in all cases equal minority.

The ECDC does this in several ways:

- By serving as ambassadors to

schools in education outreach to young people about the planning profession as a way to attract more diversity within the profession;

- By providing a forum for discussion about emerging issues and for social networking among our Chapter's professionals, students, and university faculty; and,
- By providing resources for facilitating discussion regarding real planning challenges with the intended outcome of helping citizens and decision-makers understand the complex context in which we live as citizens of the Commonwealth, such that no person is left out or discriminated against.

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## APA VIRGINIA RECOGNIZES THE BEST PLANNING EFFORTS IN 2009 AT AWARDS LUNCHEON

**By Robert Kuhns, AICP,  
Chairman, Awards Committee**

Every year APA Virginia recognizes the best and the brightest in the field of planning with the annual awards program. The nominees in 2009 ranged from local governments, associations, public agencies, private firms and universities. Politicians were recognized and citizens lauded for their efforts to make the Commonwealth of Virginia a better place for now and future generations. Here is an overview of the award winners.

**Outstanding Planning Award  
Richmond Downtown Plaza**

The award for Outstanding Planning Project was presented to the City of Richmond for the Richmond Downtown Plan. The Plan was adopted by the City Council in October 2008 after an 18-month planning effort built upon an extensive engagement of the public and a commitment to key planning principles or 'foundations'. A consultant team lead by Dover Kohl & Partners assisted the City in this effort. These Seven Foundations set a clear tone and direction for the plan with a focus on: variety and choice, traditional city patterns, a green downtown, a river context, urban architecture, history and economic diversity. The community engagement included key stakeholder meetings, charrettes, and an open design studio where

residents and passersby were encouraged to stop in and offer input. The studio was open day and night from Sunday through Thursday and over 150 people visited the studio during that time. A Work-in-Progress presentation was made in a charrette format and set the stage for a refinement of the

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**RICHMOND  
DOWNTOWN  
PLAN**

Your Vision  
Your City  
Your Future



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - JERYL ROSE PHILLIPS, AICP

Greetings!

Our Spring Annual Conference in Williamsburg was a hit-- topically with our theme of *Green Communities Virginia*; attendance-wise, with over 500 participants; and, locationally, in terms of outdoor classroom opportunities and cost savings realized by having this event in at the Williamsburg Lodge. It was readily apparent, from the abundance of information shared during our keynote and conference sessions, that **communities all across the world and the Commonwealth are really going green**, and they are **using planning** as the primary vehicle for engaging their citizens in community conversations and strategy setting about what it a sustainable future means and how to get there. The conference energy was contagious— among other great ideas, I'm ready to pursue the "Eco-City Café" concept in my community as a means of bringing citizens together to help frame one of our General Plan update themes-- "Promoting Environmental Sustainability." Thank you to our presenters, sponsors, and attendees for contributing your professional interests, talents, and financial assistance to make this stimulating exchange of ideas and information possible.

In this fiscally-constrained year, our primary goals for the conference were to make it accessible to all members, and particularly worthwhile for AICP members with dual membership in APA and VAZO. I think these goals were realized given the conference feedback— there was a big bang for the buck. From time to time, I've been involved with the annual

conference planning, but never at this level. A little more than a glimpse at what really goes on behind the scenes from start to finish left me with even more admiration for the tireless volunteer spirit of our leadership and members, and the tremendous resource we have in our Chapter Administrator. We are reviewing the conference evaluations and will be incorporating your suggestions on what we can do better with future conference programming.

In late April, I head to Minneapolis to dialogue with the other Chapter Presidents during the Spring Leadership meetings at the APA National Conference. While I'm there, in addition to hopping on Light Rail to experience first-hand what Norfolk, and hopefully, Virginia Beach, will soon have in Virginia's first light rail transit system, I will be joining our Ethnic and Cultural Diversity Committee (ECDC) Co-Chairs, B. Leon Hughes and Joseph Curtis, on stage to receive the **Chapter President's Council 2009 Karen B. Smith Award for "Outstanding Service to Community."** This award recognizes the multi-year focus the Chapter leadership and the ECDC Committee has placed on increasing awareness about ethnic and cultural diversity in planning practice and in our Chapter activities. You can read more about that in this issue of Newsbrief.

Speaking of award winners, be sure to take time to also read in this issue about our **2009 Chapter Awards winners**, whose outstanding planning, student and program efforts were recognized at the Annual Conference.

In closing, I share some news from the Sunshine

State, where state legislators have been pushing to dismantle the agency in charge of managing growth, arguing that it's standing in the way of reviving Florida's economy. A proposal calls for taking the Department of Community Affairs apart, and handing nearly all of its duties over to the Secretary of State— who didn't ask for it and has no experience in community planning. The move is one of a host of measures proposed by lawmakers there to stimulate the state's economy by loosening the rules on construction permitting. Other proposals include eliminating impact fees designed to make developers pay for roads, sewers, and schools needed for growth, and cutting in half the time allowed for reviewing permits for wiping out wetlands. The push for dismantling the Department comes as the agency is rewriting the state building code to require greater energy efficiency, one of Governor Crist's initiatives for combating climate change. The Department also reviews local government growth plans, and provides funding for streets and parks, among other responsibilities. The Department's Secretary warned the legislation under consideration would eviscerate the growth management process to the detriment of Florida. He also pointed out that neither the House nor the Senate has conducted any sort of thorough review of what the Department does, before or while considering this legislation.

I share this with you because Virginia experienced echoes of the same during the 2009 General Assembly Session. While we do not

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### APA VA Board of Directors

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## AWARDS LUNCHEON (CONTINUED)

illustrative plan, further analysis, and subsequently the addition of the seventh foundation on maintaining a mix of incomes Downtown. In addition to this community participation, the Planning Commission and City Council conducted advertised public hearings on the draft documents. Another feature of the planning effort and adopted plan was the development of implementation activities to sustain the planning energy with initiatives including regulatory changes, planning strategies, funding mechanisms, advocacy, and possible capital improvements. The hands-on planning built trust in the process, supported sound planning principles and resulted in products of clear direction on complex issues to the City. The process and plan were deemed by the jurors as good examples to follow for both small and large area planning throughout the Commonwealth.

### Planning Innovation Award Roanoke Residential Pattern Book

The City of Roanoke and Hill Studio were recognized for the "Roanoke Residential Pattern Book" with the Chapter's Planning Innovation Award. While pattern books are not new, the innovative, highly illustrative and inclusive manner in which the "Roanoke Residential Pattern Book" is written was felt to be exceptional by the jurors. The "Roanoke Residential Pattern Book" was formulated as an extensive public-private partnership with the Roanoke Planning Office and their consultant, Hill Studio, located in Roanoke. The effort also included a tremendous effort by the public including builders, developers, homeowners and interested citizens through house tours and extensive public meetings. The final product is a truly exceptional and innovative document that contains unique elements such as:

- Neighborhood (lot) patterns
- Green Building
- Landscaping and Fencing sections
- Permissive and friendly writing style
- Checklists and worksheets



*Anne Becket and Chad Adkins with Hill Studios working on graphics for the Pattern Book (Photograph by Patrick Hughes)*



*Roanoke Planner Maribeth Mills documenting Roanoke's housing stock for the Pattern Book (Photograph by Angie Williamson)*

### Student Planning Project Award Hull Street Road Revitalization Plan

The students of Virginia Commonwealth University, members of Dr. John Accoridino's Urban Commercial Revitalization class completed a highly complex and thorough plan for the Hull Street corridor of Richmond this past fall. The Plan was comprehensive and included excellent mapping, organization, and analysis. For their efforts, the student team was recognized by APA Virginia with the 2009 Student Planning Project Award. The students coupled the corridor's existing challenges with a market study that

considered future possibilities and provided specific future recommendations for the area. The Plan was quite comprehensive and considered the history of the area, the plans in place or pending, as well as a myriad of survey results to produce a realistic plan. The Plan uniquely addressed the questions: Why, Where, Who and When, to each objective. Overall, the students did a superior job in creating a realistic plan that included extensive analysis, solid writing and excellent mapping and graphics.



*Dr. John Accoridino and the Students of VCU*

### Private Sector Planning Award Journey through Hallowed Ground Corridor Management Plan

Lardner/Klein Landscape Architects were recognized with the Private Sector Planning Award for the Journey through Hallowed Ground (JTHG) National Heritage Area. The JTHG National Heritage Area is a unique area through Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia that is proposed to be protected, cherished and explored. This 179-mile corridor traverses 3 states and includes two World Heritage Sites, 13 National Park Units, 15 National Historic Landmarks, 60 National Register Rural Historic Districts and more than one million acres listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A Corridor Management Plan was developed by Lardner/Klein to integrate participation and guide the JTHG

*(Continued on page 4)*



## AWARDS LUNCHEON (CONTINUED)

Partnership for the corridor. An extensive collaborative process was conducted that involved every local government along the corridor, three state transportation agencies, conservation and historic resources agencies, over 150 civic organizations, local businesses and private landowners. This large scale regional planning effort advocates a context sensitive approach to projects within the byway corridor to protect the valuable scenic, historic, archaeological, cultural, natural and recreational resources, all of which were inventoried and analyzed through months of research and miles of field work. The management plan established a framework to insure that the Plan will be implemented. Some additional case studies were conducted within the corridor. The team worked with various DOTs to coordinate the differing views about context sensitive solutions. In addition, best practices used throughout the corridor were highlighted to serve as examples for other to follow. This extensive effort of inventory and community participation was felt by the jurors to be a good standard for multi-jurisdictional, large scale planning studies throughout the Commonwealth.

### Planning Leadership Award (Professional Planner)



*Cedar Mountain Battlefield,  
Culpeper, VA*

*(Photograph by Kenneth L. Garrett,  
courtesy of the JTHG Partnership)*

Peter Braham, AICP (Fairfax County, retired) was awarded the APA Virginia 2009 Award for Planning Leadership. Peter worked as a planner for over 25 years and

recently retired as a Principal Planner from the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) after 23 years of service to the County. As a knowledgeable and well-established planner, Peter utilized his skills and background to mentor junior planners while also engaging and educating citizens, applicants and elected officials, thereby, increasing the awareness of planning principles and the process. He is known as a planning resource throughout the region and is well respected by his peers, citizens, applicants, Planning Commissioners and members of the Board of Supervisors. He served the planning field through his work with the Engineers and Surveyors Institute (ESI), a recent presentation at the Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association conference and importantly, by taking the time and making the effort to explain the principles and goals of planning to those within and outside the planning field.

### Planning Leadership Award (State Elected Official)



*Peter Braham, AICP and Jim Zook, AICP  
Photograph by Liz Via, AICP*

Eldon James accepted the APA Virginia Award for Planning Leadership given to Clifford L. (Clay) Athey, Jr. (R-18th District) for leadership by a state elected official. Delegate Athey came to the legislature in 2002 with local government experience, serving for four years on the Front Royal Town Council and two years as Mayor. In his law practice, he assists landowners with planning and zoning issues and the intersection of his public service with his private practice has made

him keenly aware of the challenges facing comprehensive community planning and development in the Commonwealth, and most especially for small towns and rural communities. This combination of perspectives has given him an insight that has been exceptionally helpful in the legislature. His efforts on HB3202 have helped to bring about some of the most significant changes in land use law in a generation. Del. Athey can rightfully be viewed as the primary author of the Urban Development Area (UDA) concept, which strives to use a community's adopted Comprehensive Plan as a true guide for future development using the principles of smart growth and new urbanism. He now serves as the Co-Chair of the Joint Subcommittee Studying Land Use Tools in Virginia. As a legislator, Del. Athey often will propose ideas and ask questions, then sit back, listen and carefully consider the responses, then refine the ideas and questions and listen some more. He has been especially diligent in ensuring that planners and planning perspectives are included at the table where these discussions occur. In his acceptance speech, James quoted Athey saying, "We need to reach some sort of compromise to achieve sustainability and this effort has to be led by planners."

### 2009 VAPA Awards Jury

Bob Kuhns, AICP, Clark Nexsen,  
Jury Chair  
Joe Lerch, AICP, VML  
Liz Friel, AICP, VP Chapter  
Affairs, VAPA  
Evie Slone, AICP, Hill Studio  
Judy Meany, FAICP, Catholic  
University  
Earl Anderson, AICP, VP External  
Affairs, VAPA

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY (CONTINUED)

Since its inception, the Chapter Board has memorialized the importance of ethnic and cultural diversity in our Chapter leadership, policies, and activities. In this regard, the Board elevated the ECDC Chair position to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors with a Bylaws amendment in Fall 2007. Our new Chapter mission statement in our 2008-13 Chapter Development Plan (adopted in December 2008) also reflects this focus:

Our mission is to make great communities happen in Virginia by offering continuing professional development and other valuable services to our members that will enable them to excel in their practice. We are committed to raising awareness about the many benefits planning offers as a foundation for effectively addressing the physical, economic, and social changes that take place in Virginia, **and to provide effective leadership in planning advocacy reflective of a diverse geographic and population.**

Addressing diversity is further reflected in the plan's strategic objectives and suggested actions for "Meet Membership Needs" and "Get Planners Involved" as follows:

- **Meet Membership Needs** by offering services that help our members advance their individual careers and better serve their customers. Suggested actions relevant to diversity include:
  - o Encouraging discussion groups organized around topics in the Journal of the American Planning Association, Planning magazine, or books relevant to the profession.
  - o Encouraging research and development by members of best practice white papers on issues relevant to the profession and timely to planning issues in Virginia.
  - o Routinely assessing the

Chapter membership to ensure services provided meet needs.

- **Get Planners Involved** by engaging all facets of the Chapter membership in Chapter activities and leadership development. Suggested actions relevant to diversity include:
  - o Growing chapter membership by encouraging and embracing membership diversity.
  - o Promoting ethnic and cultural diversity by continuing to demonstrate leadership in ethnic and cultural diversity and awareness by encouraging and promoting diversity within our profession in order to be more reflective of the communities we serve; offering programs, speakers and other Chapter resources to facilitate resolution of community planning issues that disproportionately affect minority populations; encouraging diversity in Chapter leadership; and, supporting programs that bring awareness about community planning and the Planning profession to elementary, middle, and high-school students (including, among other things, participation in Career Day events).

The Board has and continues to place a priority on the activities of the ECDC by appropriating funding for such. Each fiscal year, the ECDC requests funds from the Chapter to implement a work program. This work program consists of hosting Diversity Breakfasts within Chapter Sections, Diversity sessions or event at the annual Chapter conference, and

an education initiative that involves participation in Career Day events at middle and high schools. For Career Day events, the ECDC has produced a display and brochure about Careers in Planning. At the Diversity breakfasts, there may be featured speakers or just an opportunity to network. During the Chapter's 2008 conference, the Diversity sessions were packed, and the conversation spilled out into an impromptu happy hour afterwards. In general, people who participate in these sessions and breakfasts are passionate or stimulated about the opportunity to exchange ideas or expand their mindset.

This current fiscal year, the ECDC has programmed and the Chapter has funded a least one Diversity Breakfast in each Section and is also considering afternoon get-togethers. A two-session Diversity track was once again included on the 2009 Annual Conference agenda. In Fall 2008, the ECDC hosted APA Board Director and City of Raleigh, NC Planning Director, Mitchell Silver, AICP, at a Student Planning Association meeting at the University of Virginia. Mitchell is involved with the APA Membership Committee's Diversity Sub-Task Force and the new Young Ambassador's Program, which is a successor to the Chapter's ECDC Education initiative. The ECDC is also working on a new program to visit various jurisdictions in Virginia to talk to them about handling diversity issues in Community Planning, starting with areas that

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*ECDC Member Michael "Miguel" Salinas Discusses Diversity Conflicts at the 2009 Annual Conference  
Photograph by Liz Via, AICP*

## CULTURAL DIVERSITY (CONTINUED)

having been experiencing high profile challenges in this regard, such as Northern Virginia, where regulations have been adopted and campaign platforms have been based on or resulting in ethnic discrimination.

As recently as December 2008, a member of APA's Diversity Committee and the APA California Membership Inclusion Director contacted myself and our ECDC Chairs with a request for information regarding how our ECDC program continues to operate as part of a broad research effort. She noted that her role on her Board is to work with other Board members (awards, programs, membership, etc.) to increase people of color in the profession and to address diversity in planning in the larger context, and is currently working on Chapter Bylaws amendments to add Membership Inclusion Directors throughout the Chapter.

We feel that through the ECDC Committee's efforts we are offering an outstanding service to both our members and our Commonwealth. It is clear that the Virginia Chapter is looked to as a leader and a role model on this topic; however, our Chapter's ECDC Committee and Program have heretofore not been recognized for its initiative and accomplishments. Therefore, speaking on behalf of the Board of Directors, we are delighted to receive this national recognition.

Want to learn more about the Chapter's ECDC-sponsored activities? Visit <http://apavirginia.org/aboutus/leadership/committees/ethnic-and-cultural-diversity-committee-ecdc> or contact the ECDC Co-Chairs.

## 2009 VIRGINIA PLANNING SCHOOLS HONOR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

**By Robert Kuhns, AICP**

Every year APA Virginia asks each of the accredited universities to choose their outstanding students for recognition at the annual conference. The students are provided with the opportunity to attend the conference, participate in sessions and meet with professional planners and elected officials.

### VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

#### Graduate Outstanding Student - Craig F. Carver

Craig F. Carver is on track to graduate this May with an outstanding GPA (3.8) and will long be remembered by the faculty of VCU as one of the brightest, yet also most congenial students they have had the pleasure to teach. After one semester, MURP students elected him president of their Student Association. Under his leadership, the group developed new initiatives to serve the community and to strengthen relationships with planning practitioners, as well as to help recruit prospective planning students. Craig is also active organizing and participating in volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity.

#### Undergraduate Outstanding Student - Aaron Shoemaker

Aaron is a thoughtful, engaged, and talented student with a current cumulative GPA of 3.88, which is higher than any of his peers in the program. Aaron makes regular, insightful contributions in class and his writing and analytical skills are well above average. He also has gotten enthusiastically involved in community engagement and service activities. He shows great promise for future academic and practical work in planning.

### UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

#### Graduate Outstanding Student - Glenn Kenneth Heimgartner

Glenn was chosen by the UVA faculty for his outstanding academic performance (3.92 GPA), consistent professional quality in his work, and vigor in making the sustainability connection between the built and natural environment.

#### Undergraduate Outstanding Student - Melissa Ann Reese

Melissa was chosen as well for her outstanding academic achievement as an undergraduate planning student (GPA 3.84), professional quality work in applied courses, and outstanding service toward all undergraduate planning students through the Student Planner's Association. She is a leader by example and intellectual clarity. She has been a helpful teaching assistant

in undergraduate courses. She has also championed the planning efforts of those in the "informal" communities both here and abroad.



*UVA's Glenn Heimgartner and  
Melissa Reese*

*Photograph by Liz Via, AICP*

### VIRGINIA TECH UNIVERSITY URBAN AFFAIRS AND PLANNING

#### Graduate Outstanding Student - Scott Gentry

Scott Gentry came to Virginia Tech with a civil engineering degree and has become a planner. He combines his interests in engineering and planning with a specialty in water planning research and will receive the graduate certificate in watershed management along with his MURP degree. As President of the Graduate Urban Affairs and Planning Association, he is a leader in his Virginia Tech Blacksburg MURP class of 2009.

#### Undergraduate Outstanding Student - Ryan Little

Ryan Little is an outstanding

*(Continued on page 7)*



## THE VML GO GREEN VIRGINIA INITIATIVE RECEIVES SPECIAL RECOGNITION BY APA VA

**By Robert Kuhns, AICP,  
Chairman, Awards Committee**

The Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association recognized the Virginia Municipal League's **Go Green Virginia Initiative**, a program that encourages local governments to reduce energy and promote sustainability, with a special award on March 26th at the 2009 Annual Planning Conference.

The theme of the conference was Green Communities Virginia and APA VA felt that the cornerstone of the initiative, the Green Government Challenge, was tailor made for recognition at the planning conference. The Green Government Challenge is a friendly competition among VML member local governments to encourage the implementation of specific environmental policies and practical actions that reduce carbon emissions. Local governments earn "green points" by implementing or adopting up to 30 policies and actions divided into 11 categories ranging from energy efficiency and green buildings to land-use and innovation. Amassing at least 100 "green points" out of a possible 200 earn the local government certification as a "Green Government."

In its first year the Green Government Challenge produced the following results:

- Sixty-eight member local governments took the time to register their interest in the Challenge on the Go Green Virginia Web site.

- Of those 68, 41 cities, towns and counties chose to participate in the Challenge and submit their accomplishments for review.
- Of those 41 local governments, 26 achieved the minimum score of 100 "green points" that was necessary for certification as a "VML Green Government."

In accepting the award at the annual conference, VML Executive Director Mike Amyx thanked the APAVA members for the recognition and announced that year two of the initiative would include new partnerships with Virginia Association of Counties and the Virginia School Board Association making the "Green

Government Challenge" available to all local governments and school districts in the Commonwealth. For more information on how your local government can participate in the challenge go to [www.gogreenva.org](http://www.gogreenva.org).



*Joe Lerch at the VML booth at the Annual Conference, Williamsburg*

## COALITION FOR SMARTER GROWTH HONORS CONGRESSMAN CONNOLLY

From Press Release

The Coalition for Smarter Growth announced that their sixth annual **Livable Communities Leadership Award** was awarded to Congressman Gerry Connolly (D – 11th District) on February 25th at the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Previous awardees include Bob Peck, former President of the Greater Washington Board of Trade and Chris Zimmerman, Arlington County Board Member amongst others. As Chairman of Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors, Connolly prepared the county for the future by making transit-oriented development a core principle, approving the Metro West mixed-use community at Vienna Metro, initiating the Tyson's Land Use Task Force, and supporting a bold, new green vision for Tyson's Corner. He added hundreds of acres of parkland and trails, pledging 10 percent of the County's land as permanent open space. He also increased stream and Chesapeake Bay protections by dedicating one penny on the tax rate to stormwater projects.

## OUTSTANDING STUDENTS (CONTINUED)

### VIRGINIA TECH UNIVERSITY'S NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

#### Graduate Outstanding Student – Nicole Sitko

Nicole Sitko was selected to represent the program because she has simply been the most talented student since

arriving at UAP-Alexandria in the fall 2007. She is graduating this spring with a 4.0 GPA in a MURP degree. Nicole was a graduate assistant in the Metropolitan Institute at Virginia Tech in her first year and worked tirelessly on a series of key projects for the center. For example, she analyzed data and helped project development demand to 2040. This past year, Nicole took a graduate assistant position with

Jonah Fogel at Virginia Cooperative Extension in Richmond, thereby bringing sponsored research money to Virginia Tech while still a grad student. Nicole is also a good citizen of the program and actively participates in all our events. Finally, she has a great sprit of public service, which is so critical in planning, and will join the Peace Corp after graduation.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

have a state agency with oversight of community affairs to fear dismantlement of, Virginia has made strident advances in recent years to provide additional community development tools sorely needed by growing localities to better manage their intended growth. During this session, we heard the rallying cry of the development community to roll back regulations, to extend the time period of validity of approved development plans, and to eliminate impact fee authority, all as a way to help better survive the current economic downturn, which has disproportionately affected the building industry. Some of their successes are discouraging. However, unlike in Florida, Virginia is fortunate to have legislators like Delegate Clifford R. "Clay" Athey, Jr. (R-18th District), who want to look before they leap. For better or worse, Del. Athey can rightfully be viewed as the primary author of the Urban Development Area (UDA) concept of HB3202, which strives to use a community's adopted Comprehensive Plan as a true guide for future development using the principles of smart growth and new urbanism. Fully recognizing that the General Assembly's first effort might not be its best effort, Del. Athey

championed establishing an open and inclusive review effort to determine what can be improved in the UDA legislation and what other planning tools and techniques might be beneficial to communities throughout the Commonwealth. He now serves as the Co-Chair of the Joint Subcommittee Studying Land Use Tools in Virginia, which actively meets. For his commitment to this arena and willingness to consider all stakeholders' viewpoints, **Delegate Athey is this year's recipient of the Virginia Chapter's Outstanding State Elected Official Award.**

Happy Spring!

**Deadline for the next  
Newsbrief submissions is  
June 1, 2009.**



*Keith Fairfax, President, VAZO and Jeryl Philips, President, APA Virginia*

## AICP UPDATE

**By Glenn Larson, AICP  
APA Virginia Professional  
Development Officer**



Congratulations to the fourteen Virginia Chapter members who passed the AICP exam administered this past November.

Yon Lambert  
Frederick E.S. Wagg  
Ellen G. Cook  
Andrew V. Sorrell  
Jeremiah J. Christopher  
Caroline Ellis  
Amy M. Kilroy  
Craig A. Wilson  
Daniel Lee  
Patrick R. Sowers  
Brad Belo  
Francis Burnszynski  
Dalia Leven  
Patrick M. Hughes

Alexandria  
Richmond  
Williamsburg  
Cumberland  
Alexandria  
Arlington  
Charlottesville  
Richmond  
Alexandria  
Stephens City  
Richmond  
Alexandria  
Arlington  
Roanoke

See what the Virginia Chapter has to offer regarding new Virginia area AICP exam and Certification Maintenance (CM) Program opportunities. Check out the recently revised and now regularly updated AICP page at the APA Virginia Chapter website: <http://apavirginia.org/member-resources/aicp/>. If you have questions about AICP, or want to be added to the Virginia Chapter's semi-monthly AICP exam or Certification Maintenance update e-mail lists, please contact me at 804/748-1970 or [aicp@apavirginia.org](mailto:aicp@apavirginia.org).





## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: HOT BILLS TO KNOW ABOUT!

**By George Homewood, AICP  
Legislative Director, APA  
Virginia**

The 2009 Session of the General Assembly adjourned on-time after having adopted a revised budget that was the most difficult in years, but saved to some extent by the timely arrival of federal stimulus package monies. The budget and the worsening economic climate dominated the agenda throughout the Session which was nearly devoid of the partisanship and battles between House and Senate that had come to typify recent years' Sessions.

There were a number of land use and planning related measures that passed through the General Assembly, most notably perhaps a quartet of measures championed by the construction industry that will, if signed by the Governor, eliminate local regulation of alternative wastewater disposal systems, reduce the administrative component of performance bonds from 25% to 10%, extend the period of validity for virtually any currently valid plan or permit into 2014, and allow localities to amend proffers that do not involve density or use via a consent process. These and a few other bills are noted below. For a full list of bills of interest to planners please download our legislative report that resides at <http://eldonjamesassociates.com/client/vapa/>

Also, note that as of the writing of this article the Governor had not yet indicated whether or not he will choose to sign the bills as presented, veto the bills or suggest amendments. Please check the Commonwealth's website for the most current status of any bills you are interested in.

**HB 1671 (Dance) and SB 1094 (Locke)** – Derelict structures remediation legislation.

**HB 1680 (Orrock)** – Defines the term "act of God" for purposes of determining when destroyed nonconforming uses may be rebuilt

**HB 1681 (Lewis)** – Requires application for private well permit to include site plan; responsibility of landowner to ensure well is located on his property

**HB 1788 (Hull) and SB 1276 (Martin)** – Preempts local regulations on the installation, operation and maintenance of alternative onsite sewage systems

**HB 1828 (Fralin)** – Permits localities and water authorities to provide rate incentives for green roof construction based on percentage of stormwater runoff reduction

**HB 1975 (Ware) and SB 1058 (Whipple)** – Allows localities to grant financial and regulatory incentives for residential and commercial green roof construction

**HB 1991 (Bulova) and SB 1022 (Hanger)** – Extends to Jul. 1, 2010 time period that localities have to adopt local stormwater management program

**HB 2019 (Rust) and SB 1398 (Norment)** – Requires localities to note any statewide transportation corridors of significance within its boundaries on comprehensive plan transportation map

**HB 2029 (D. Marshall)** – Reduces until Jul. 1, 2014 the maximum permissible overhead percentage on developer performance bonds for public improvements from 25 percent to 10 percent

**HB 2055 (Lohr) and SB 1418 (Vogel)** – Amendments to the current transfer of development rights statutes

**HB 2077 (Oder)** – Extends to Jul. 1, 2014 the expiration date for i) any subdivision plat, recorded plat, or final site plan; ii) certain special exceptions, special use permits, or conditional use permits; and iii) certain proffers that were valid and outstanding as of Jan. 1, 2009; all extensions require that any performance bonds or other financial guarantees of completion of public improvements are continued for the time of the extension

**HB 2096 (Orrock)** – Allows localities to waive building permit and other housing-related fees for 501(c)(3) organizations that

provide affordable housing

**HB 2322 (Athey)** – Cities and towns have until Jul. 1, 2012 to designate urban development areas [previously the legislation was limited to counties]

**HB 2326 (Athey)** – Strikes the phrase "approaching confiscation" from the description of a variance in the BZA statute

**SB 982 (Wagner)** – Requires localities to waive stormwater fees for properties that reduce post-development stormwater flows

**SB 1064 (Puller)** – Requires planning commissions and governing bodies to post their comprehensive plans or any amendments under consideration to such documents on their websites or on websites on which they generally post information

**SB 1114 (Ticer)** – Directs the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board to adopt regulations that provide for the evaluation and potential inclusion of emerging or innovative stormwater control technologies that prove effective in reducing nonpoint source pollution

**SB 1128 (Petersen)** – Requires VDH to develop regulations for the construction of wells for closed loop geothermal heating systems

**SB 1416 (Blevins)** – Requires applicants for development permit to document that historical or archaeological resources on site will be preserved or accommodated

**SB 1487 (Vogel)** – Permits urban development areas to include a mix of residential housing types, including affordable housing

**SB 1524 (Watkins)** – Broadens the zoning administrator's authority to determine vested rights in certain circumstances

**SB 1530 (Norment)** – Prohibits taking secondary streets into state system until all required permits have been obtained and any outstanding fees, charges, or other financial obligations have been satisfied through payment or bonding

## APA VIRGINIA – PLANNER NEWS AND MOVES

Culpeper Planning and Community Development Director **CHUCK STEPHENSON** announced his resignation on April 9th to pursue his own design and construction business. Chuck has been with the Town of Culpeper since 1990 and has led the town through an envious period of growth and revitalization.



*Jason and Ben, Family Photo, March 2009*

Former Leesburg urban designer, **JASON BESKE, AICP**, welcomed son Benjamin on Friday, March 13th, weighing in at 7lbs 12 oz. Rumors are he asked for colored pencils within 6 hours of his birth. Additional rumors have it that in contrast to previous years; Jason will be

catching up on his sleep in Minneapolis!

Historic preservation planner **ANNETTE M. CHENAULT** has announced her retirement from the City of Lynchburg to pursue other interests. She won't be leaving the area and intends to stay involved in the preservation "cause" but is turning the day to day duties over to Planner **REBECCA McCHAREN**.

**CLARK NEXSEN** announced in a press release their winning of the Roanoke Urban Effect Design Competition. The Roanoke Urban Effect is an International Design Competition that challenged design professionals to look beyond the traditional urban planning model and present innovative and inspired ideas that create a vision for a more vibrant and sustainable urban environment. The competition focused on the City of Roanoke's main thoroughfare, Jefferson Street. The competition received broad national and international interest. Clark Nexsen's Urban Design proposal was a joint effort between their local Roanoke office and their office in Norfolk, Virginia. Stay tuned for an upcoming article on the Roanoke Urban Effect Design Competition in the summer issue of NEWSBRIEF.



*Gary Ziegler, Photo from the Westmoreland/Colonial Beach Journal, Undated*

It is with sadness that Newsbrief reports on the passing of Westmoreland County Zoning Administrator and Director of Planning **GARY ZIEGLER**. Gary had been battling cancer since before 2005 when he first accepted the job with the county. Planning Commission Chairman Rob McDermott officially announced Gary's passing at the beginning of a

planning commission meeting in February. He stated, "Gary's efforts had a major impact on bringing

Westmoreland County's land use administration into the 21st century. He is going to be very sorely missed."

Round Hill Town Planner **ROB KINSLEY, AICP** is very pleased to announce that the Round Hill Historic District is now listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register following approval by the Board of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in December. Following a final staff review, the nomination of the District to the National Register of Historic Places will be forwarded to the National Park Service.

The Town of Strasburg has announced that **JUDSON J. REX, AICP**, of Saratoga Springs, Utah has been selected by Town Manager Kevin Fauber to be the new town planner. Rex earned his bachelor's degree in planning from Brigham Young University and a master's degree in city and regional planning from Ohio State University, opps, sorry THE Ohio State University. Before working in Saratoga Springs he worked for the city of Dublin, Ohio. For those of you that keep up with these things, the Strasburg position opened up when **NORA AMOS** left to take a position with Ashland.

North Topsail Beach has chosen former Rocky Mount planner **LARA BURLESON** to be their next town manager. Lara had left Rocky Mount just a couple years ago to be the town manager of Kilmarnock, Virginia. In Rocky Mount she was the Assistant Town Manager and Community Development Director.

VML reported in February a couple of news items of interest to APA Virginia members including that:

**ALLEN J. MURPHY, JR, AICP**, has been named James City County's planning director/assistant development manager. Allen's experience includes having served as acting director of planning since August and acting assistant development manager since January 2008. Allen will manage the Planning Division operations, including both development review and comprehensive planning functions and codes compliance which includes both environmental and zoning functions.

AND the City of Falls Church finally ended the suspense for those of us up here in Northern Virginia with the appointment of **SUZANNE COTELLESA, AICP** to the post vacated by **LIZ FRIEL, AICP**, General Manager of the City's Department of Development Services. Development Services includes the Planning, Zoning and Urban Forestry divisions. It's a good thing that Sue also has her CZA and is a certified arborist. Sue is well known in NoVa planning circles from her work in the City of Fairfax as their Planning Division Chief.

The City of Chesapeake has named **JOHN KING** as its new zoning administrator. John has been employed by the city since 1987 when he was hired as the city's first arborist. There is a good chance then that he also has a CZA and is certified arborists making us wonder if this is a new career path we need to follow!

## SECTION DIRECTORS MEET IN WILLIAMSBURG

**By Dan Painter, AICP, Vice President of Sections**

The Section Directors met in Williamsburg in March at the annual conference to discuss common issues and ways to provide professional development opportunities to their sections. Below is the list of directors and their contact information. A map of the sections is available on the website at [www.apavirginia.org](http://www.apavirginia.org). APA Virginia members are encouraged to check the chapter's website OFTEN for programs and training opportunities. For example, Eddie Wells announced 3 web conferences in April, May and June on such topics as transit oriented development, inclusionary housing and a 2009 planning law review sponsored by the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission.

**REMEMBER!** Section directors obtain their mailing lists from National APA – log in today and update your contact information! It's the **ONLY** way to make sure you keep receiving your section and chapter updates!



*Standing (L to R) are Hilary Zahm, Andrea Hornung, Scott Smith, Garrett Jackson and Eddie Wells, Seated are Amy Jordan and Dan Painter Photograph by Liz Via, AICP*

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## NEW EFFORT TO LINK LAND, WATER AND GROWTH ANNOUNCED

From Press Release

Communities across Virginia are being transformed by urbanization and a changing economy, leading to a variety of emerging issues. Local officials often find themselves struggling with the task of planning for the effects of these issues. In response to these needs, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation with funding from the Virginia Coastal Zone Management program, Virginia Cooperative Extension, and Chesapeake NEMO have partnered to develop a program to assist local

officials and their constituents in natural resources based planning issues. The program is called the Virginia Network for Education of Municipal Officials (Virginia NEMO).

Virginia NEMO helps communities foster well-planned growth, preserve water quality and protect natural areas. Virginia NEMO provides communities with educational programs emphasizing natural resource-based planning and better site design. This request-based program provides free technical help and leverages financial assistance,

helping communities implement sound planning and watershed protection. Virginia NEMO works in partnership with planning professionals, state agency personnel, and other service providers which allows a level of local assistance that no one partner could achieve independently.

If you would like to become a VNEMO partner or would like to learn more about how VNEMO can assist your community, simply contact any one of the program coordinators through our website [www.virginianemo.net](http://www.virginianemo.net). We look forward to networking with you!





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**Virginia Chapter**

*Making Great Communities Happen*

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## APA VA and VAZO Members Enjoy Williamsburg!

