



“Improving, changing, and exploring the roles of women and men in planning.”

Report from the World Summit in South Africa

Planning student frustrated with inequality, inspired by Johannesburg citizens

By Holly Killmer

I am still spinning from all that I heard, saw, and experienced during my time at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. I, along with five other Iowa State University students, went over there as delegates for the United Nations Association of Iowa. Part of my time was spent traveling around Johannesburg. We visited two of Johannesburg's townships—Soweto and Alexandra. Soweto is a common tourist destination (although whites from Johannesburg stay clear of the area), being that it was the home of Mandela, still is the home of Bishop Tutu, and was the stage of many important anti-apartheid actions.

Alexandra, like Soweto is a primarily black community faced with a high unemployment rate and devastating poverty. We saw several miles of shacks made out of corrugated metal. There was one out-house and one outside water faucet for about every ten shacks. This level of poverty contrasted sharply to the opulent communities a mere ten miles away.

While in Soweto we visited some terrific community gardens, which provided nutritious and affordable food, beatified the neighborhood, and brought community members together. We also had the opportunity to tour model low-income, energy efficient homes. Passive solar heat and heat from the photovoltaic panels of these houses eliminates the need for low-income residents to use coal-fired stoves in their homes, a common practice which is bad for the environment and particularly bad for human health. These houses are beginning to be built in Soweto and other communities outside of Johannesburg (as well as in other parts of Africa).

The other part of my time in Johannesburg was spent attending talks and workshops at the summit. For governmental officials and lobbyist “the summit” was held at one location—Sandton Center, where the focus was on negotiating agreements. But for civil society observers, like me, “the summit” was made up of a myriad of mini-conferences happening all over the city. Non-profits from

around the world held these conferences covering a variety of topics (biodiversity, climate change, economic equality, localization v. globalization, forest management, corporate control, etc.).

For the most part, the media presented the summit as a failure. And indeed nothing too radical came out of the governmental forum. However, what I observed at the mini-conferences around Johannesburg was anything but a failure. I had the opportunity to hear both civil society leaders as well

“Amidst all the inequalities and the immense poverty, grassroots projects around the city are definitely sparking positive change.”

as people making change at the grass roots level. A major theme of the talks and workshops I attended, no matter of the discussion topic, was a need to include local communities in the decisions that affect them.

For example, a workshop on sustainable forest management included presentations by indigenous people from all around the world; all the talks focused on the potential or realized benefits of local participation in negotiations between corporations and governments. Intuitively it seems that local communities should have a right to have a voice in their future.

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Membership, communication issues at APA meetings

Thanks again to Angela and Karen, the newsletter editors, for this outstanding edition that includes articles about the renegade affordable housing workshop at the APA National Conference in Chicago, a personal report of the World Summit in South Africa, and a paper about feminism and environmental planning ethics. All well worth reading.

I just returned from the APA leadership meetings and Region I regional conference both held in Providence, RI, a wonderful city filled with historical stories and architecture plus a river that recently has been uncovered, moved, and dramatically accented with WaterFire, designed by a Rhode Island School of Design alum. This river with authentic Italian gondolas forms a “Y” right in the downtown area.

A busman’s holiday while in RI included a visit to the City Planning Department at the University of Rhode Island in Kingston. The department is housed in a wonderful old building and has a great skylighted drafting area for the students.

I was introduced to the Orton Foundation during the conference. For those of you not familiar with this foundation, funded by the family that owns the Vermont Country Store, visit their web site, www.orton.org. This foundation is doing interesting work, especially targeted to rural areas. For example, the foundation has materials on how to develop a community video through the Community Video Program. In addition, a software program, Community Viz, has been developed to help citizens visualize their future.

The APA leadership meetings had several important focuses. First, there was an exercise and resultant discussion about the growth of APA either at a moderate rate of 15,000 new members in seven years or an accelerated rate of 100,000 in the same time-period. Clearly, the accelerated rate would dramatically change APA. The second exercise focused on the APA organizational development plan (ODP). The questions were what are the three initiatives that can be used to grow APA, are the six

major goals of the ODP still operational and if not what needs to be changed, and prioritize the goals. Basically, the agreement is that the goals are still operational; though perhaps they should not be prioritized. All six need equal emphasis.

The six goals are:

- Foster organizational change/maintain financial sustainability
- Develop and promote a broad definition that reflects the visual, emotional, and cultural identity of APA and AICP
- Advocate and implement policies and legislative agendas that support and sustain good planning at the local, state, and national levels
- Develop new membership and product marketing strategies
- Create a culture of continuing education and provide more education opportunities for practicing planners
- Pursue social, economic, and racial equity

During the discussion of the goals, it was pointed out by the former chair of this division that gender equity is not included. A recommendation was made to do so.

There are four policy papers being developed at the national level:

- Energy Conservation
- Homelessness
- Air Quality
- Redevelopment

Comments on these papers can be sent to Devin Cahill at dcahill@planning.org by 11 Oct. You may read the papers at <http://www.urban.uiuc.edu/apa-pw/papers.html>.

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TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

By Angela Jacobs

The needs of women in the planning environment cross many fields. Therefore, it is always important to consider taking advantage of the many opportunities to network with women planners who participate in other organizations. On a regional level, perhaps we should consider forming partnerships to sponsor activities or sessions with these groups. I included brief summaries of three organizations where women planners actively participate.

ITE

Each year, the Institute of Transportation Engineers holds a "Power Lunch" during the ITE National Conference. This year, the conference was in Philadelphia. One of our members, Peggy Drake, made a presentation during the event. Peggy reported that the current ITE, International President is a woman. Marsha Anderson Bomar is one of the co-founders of the lunch. Marsha helped to break the gender barrier when she became president of ITE. The event was established for women, it's pay as you go, with fun awards and prizes. Marsha is assembling an e-mail list for support. The co-founders also stressed ITE as the best choice for a professional organization to join.

TRB

TRB sponsors a committee on Women's issues in Transportation. The purpose of this committee is to identify emerging women's issues in the use of transportation; define research needs related to these issues; and stimulate, gather, and disseminate relevant research findings. The committee chair is Gloria Jeff, AICP. You can obtain additional information from their website link at <http://gulliver.trb.org/webboard/a5019/>

WTS

Founded in 1977, the Women's Transportation Seminar was created through the efforts of 40 women involved in transportation in the Washington, DC, area who recognized that a mechanism was needed to enhance professional and personal advancement and to develop industry and government recognition of the increasing involvement of women in the field of transportation. After nearly 25 years of growth and development, WTS is now a national organization of more than 3,500 transportation professionals - both women and men. Over 35 chapters have developed over the years, serving the local needs of WTS members across the country.

The Women's Transportation Seminar fulfills its mission by offering a wide range of services and activities to its members that include the following: Job Bank and Resume Service, Professional Development Annual Conference National Membership, Monthly Programs, Newsletters, Directory of Women/Minority-owned and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, Annual Awards, Scholarships, Leadership Training Program. You can obtain additional information from their website link at <http://www.wtsnational.org/>

From the Editors

Wow, I can't believe that Fall is here and school started again. Fall has always been a time when I reflect upon the past year, and this year was especially poignant because not only did September 11 mark the first anniversary of the terrorists attacks on our country, it also marked my 37th birthday. We are blessed to live in "the land of the free and the home of the brave." As we embark upon a new season, I am proud to work in an environment where we can focus on finding commonalities with others instead of highlighting our differences.

Shakira came up with some exciting topics for the Fall edition of the newsletter. Please keep sending in your comments for ideas and/or feature stories. Personally, I am really excited about my new work schedule (see page 9) and can't wait to hear success stories from other PW members with "creative" work situations.

-- Angela F. Jacobs

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As Angela says, it is unbelievable that Fall is here. It usually means graduate school for me and that usually means disgusting amounts of work. As students all over are returning to the books their research, projects, and interesting articles is something that the *Planning and Women* newsletter would like to highlight. Faculty and Planning Professionals, you too are also encouraged to submit your work, thoughts, or whatever. We hope that the *Planning and Women* newsletter will be an avenue for all students to examine the roles of women and men in planning.

While I feel that women in planning research has not received as much attention in planning as it should, I certainly have not heard much about the roles of men in planning, coming from a men's feminism perspective. Also, there are lots of great planning books that deserve book reviews, if you're interested just let us know. Thanks, and if you have any questions/concerns about the newsletter, send them our way.

-- Karen Shakira Khan

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Renegade Planners Bring Ethics to APA Conference

Workshop allowed Chicago residents to speak out against CHA plans

By Karen Shakira Khan

Chicago may be one of the most exciting, vibrant, ethnic, and interesting cities in America. It boasts world-class arts and culture, the Sears Tower, and much more. As one of the most exciting cities in America, the American Planning Association National Conference was held there this past April. While many planners attended mobile workshops sponsored by the APA, two Renegades – Janet Smith and Kat Haines – decided to create their own different, mobile workshop. And with it they challenged the conventions of planning ethics, bringing community-oriented planning to the APA table.

In January and February of last year, the American Planning Association began host committee meetings to determine the content of sessions and mobile workshops. At the conference planning table was Kat Haines, a Ph.D. student in urban planning at the University of Chicago. Haines also fights for social justice as a community consultant with the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs (JCUA). Haines says that her goal at the planning table was to convince APA that community-oriented planning deserved discussion at the 2002 conference. Yet, as she soon found out, varying ideas in planning would not be encouraged.

“I spent hours and hours in many long meetings trying to convince the local program committee and the mobile workshop committee that my ideas had merit. I quickly learned that any idea that seemed too political or that could be construed as shedding a negative light on Chicago would be dropped.”

Of Haines’ two conference workshop ideas, “The Planner’s Impact on the Grassroots Community” (residents of Humbolt Park as planners battling gentrification in their communities) made the final cut only to be poorly advertised, and consequently dropped a month from the conference, according to Haines. Needless to say, Haines describes her conference planning experience as nothing less than frustrating.

While Haines was in the conference planning process, Assistant Professor of Urban Planning and Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC), Janet Smith, was organizing some ideas of her own. Interested in alternatives to the standard \$65 workshops offered at APA, Smith and Ken Reardon (from *the Planners Network*) discussed making a statement about the high cost of conference workshops, many unfeasible for students, and bringing an alternative view of a planning issue to Chicago. One idea floated early on was a workshop on public housing transformation that would allow planners to understand what was going on from the perspective of residents and other public housing advocates.

“As many people know, I have been critical of Chicago’s *Plan for Transformation* but also efforts to reduce the supply of public housing nationwide under the HOPE VI program and the 1998 Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act. When I saw the dates for the APA, I realized that it coincided with the monthly board meeting of the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA). For the past 8-10 months, the Coalition to Protect Public Housing (CPPH) had been using these meetings as a vehicle to speak out against the transformation plan focusing on different issues and bringing residents to testify,” said Smith. Smith felt these meetings would be an educational experience for planners, a way for them to witness first hand the interaction between the CHA and residents – a kind of dos and don’ts in citizen participation.

With both workshops scratched, frustration led to action and the Renegade Workshop was born. The Workshop was definitely successful with over 20 participants in attendance. The workshop was completely free (the cost of the vans was underwritten by the UIC Nathalie P. Voorhees Center, which has been doing work

The Workshop

The Renegade Workshop began bright and early at 7 a.m. at the conference hotel. Workshop participants were first taken to Altgeld Gardens, located on the far south side, for the CHA board meeting. After the board meeting, the mobile workshop toured the “corridor” of State Street, once home to over 15,000 public housing units in rows of high-rise buildings, built as part of the nation’s urban renewal work in the 50’s and 60’s. Smith calls this area the “site of the most aggressive displacement and demolition schedule for the past two years” and yet an area that “offers the greatest potential to build back public housing given the large number of vacant lots in the surrounding community.” The last part of the workshop consisted of a panel discussion between residents, members of the CPPH and workshop attendees. The format gave residents a way to speak out about their experiences living in public housing, living with the constant fear of displacement, and how they are coping with everyday life. Residents and CPPH members spoke about the challenges of organizing residents and the challenge of taking on the role of the planner. Panelists discussed the limited opportunities of moving into mixed-income neighborhoods, the discrimination associated with vouchers and zoning restrictions, NIMBYism, and other issues associated with public housing planning.

The Plan

The Plan for Transformation began with the publication of the draft plan in 1999. The core goals of the plan include “[Providing] quality housing opportunities to very low and low-income households in mixed income settings...[and contributing] to the improvement of the neighborhoods and communities where public housing is located” (<http://www.thecha.org/>). Generally, the plan calls for a severe limitation to the number of public housing units, while it demands the development of a larger proportion of market rate and affordable units in relation to public housing. In more blunt terms, Smith says “The Plan for Transformation is clearly aimed at reducing the visibility of public housing and poor people in Chicago.” Members from JCUA and CPPH feel that the 25,000 units proposed by the CHA is insufficient, as the plan results in a loss of 13,777 as the CHA has a waiting list of 38,000 people. “CHA’s policy of first demolishing all developments and then slowly building back on-site means that many residents will be displaced from their community and lost in the system during redevelopment,” says Haines. The two groups also feel that the CHA needs to create a service system that can ensure human services transformation, like job training, life skills training, home ownership opportunities, etc.

The plan looks doable on paper, but not in reality, according to Smith. “The plan relies heavily on public-private partnerships and mixed-income housing to make the deal work. It is unclear if the CHA will ever have all the funding to complete the plan as planned, especially given the current state of Federal funding,” said Smith. Smith says that while demolition appears to be very successful, development of new units has been very slow.

The Residents

Most of the residents in Chicago’s public housing system are women and children, says Smith. A study written by John K. Holton, President of the 3H group and presented to the redevelopment steering committee of Wells and Madden found that 83.3 percent of the residents in 2000 were women. Haines says this statistic is typical of public housing developments in Chicago. “It is women and their children who are suffering”, says Haines. When children are forced to move, they are usually also forced to change schools, a move that can disrupt their social and learning patterns. Smith says a key concern “is that the process is focusing on getting people out of housing quickly so [sites] can be demolished and relatively little is being done to actually help

Janet Smith, UIC

“The *Plan for Transformation* is clearly aimed at reducing the visibility of public housing and poor people in Chicago.”

residents deal with issues and problems that will come with them into the private sector housing they move into whether temporarily or permanently, and therefore make them vulnerable to losing their homes and/or children. This includes physical and emotional health issues that make it hard to work or sustain a job and a family unless there is significant support and care provided to both the children and their parent(s).” In that respect, human services planning is seemingly limited.

“It is women and their children who are suffering.”

Kat Haines, UC

Residents leaving public housing are often not that much better off. A recent study of the relocation process by the Urban Institute that Smith works on suggests that most residents are seeing marginal improvements in the housing and neighborhood conditions after moving. Further, homeless advocates say that now the problem of homelessness is growing. Smith says, “While data is limited and often only anecdotal, we are now seeing more former CHA residents in homeless shelters.”

Haines, who works in the developments, sees public housing residents who will not speak up in criticism of the plan for fear of eviction. Haines says, “I hear of families who have become homeless or who are living with slumlords worse than the CHA. Residents cannot tell the service connector that they have a drug problem because they think they will be evicted. Residents go to the service-connector to get a job only to hear that they cannot get a job because they cannot pass the required test to enter a union or because they have a criminal record.”

The Future

When the Plan for Transformation ends around 2010, the overall look of the city will be much different, and the residents who comprise the City of Chicago will also look different. According to a report published by the National Housing Law Project, “False HOPE: A Critical Assessment of the HOPE VI Public Housing Redevelopment Program,” 11.4 percent of residents on Hope VI sites are scheduled to return or have returned to the new redeveloped sites. In Chicago, the majority of residents will not be able to return to the new redeveloped sites because income mixing limits the number of public housing units.

While the CHA has made a commitment to provide housing to all the families that were in public housing when the plan was developed, there is no obligation to provide a family a unit at the development it was living in. Haines says, “A lot of residents will probably end up at Altgeld Gardens or other developments that are not undergoing development.”

Smith calls for attention to planning ethics. “We will continue to see residents who “fail” to get work or “fail” to get off welfare or “fail” to keep employed. The question we need to ask now and not in the future is what is the cause of this failure and what can planners do to help them to succeed by addressing systemic issues like racism and classism, but also by shifting our public eye toward the needs of our neighbors rather than the desires of developers and financial institutions. After all, it is a plan, not a pro forma.”



Reverend speaks out against unfairness of CHA at CHA Board meeting and following press conference at the Renegade Workshop.

To learn more about the Chicago Plan for Transformation, go to The Chicago Housing Authority at <http://www.thecha.org/> and Susan Popkins and Mary Cunningham’s research about the impact of relocation at <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/CHArelocation.pdf>.

Promoting Student Research Feminism and Environmental Planning Ethics

By Elizabeth Kensaton

Paper Abstract

The paper topic relates to the subject of planning ethics, specifically focusing on the feminist aspect of environmental planning ethics. Feminist ethics examine women's values, experiences, and decision-making processes; feminist ethics includes those subjects of land-use, ecology, and the environment from the feminist perspective. As women are becoming more involved in the planning profession, it is important to evaluate and consider what values women can contribute to growing communities and their quality of life. Feminist approaches to the ethics topic focus on the sociological aspect of women in planning; these involve, but are not limited to, those subjects of care and empathy, and a balance of freedom and responsibility.

This paper explores one opinion and observation of what females, as a gender, are able to add to the planning profession. Beyond introducing environmental planning, and feminism and ethics, the topic focus is on the subject of ecofeminism, which tackles the issue of gender and its connections to the environment, as a main example of feminist ethics in environmental planning.

Elizabeth is a second-year graduate student in Community and Regional Planning at Iowa State University, concentrating in Land Use Planning and Development, Open Spaces, GIS, and Sustainable Design

For Elizabeth's entire paper go to: <http://www.urban.uiuc.edu/APA-PW/papers/ethics.pdf>

Report from World Summit *from Page 1 Continued...*

Yet, in addition to these seemingly inherent rights, local communities also offer unique insight due to their familiarity with the culture and environment of the area. A few days after this workshop on sustainable forest management, a conversation with the taxi driver who drove me back to where I was staying, beautifully demonstrated the benefits of local participation.

We were talking about the high crime rate in Johannesburg (I was told by several sources that Johannesburg has the highest crime rate in South Africa); his son had been murdered a few years earlier. I was so sad, and I was so frustrated that I could not begin to imagine, with the current violent environment, how the city could reduce crime. I was so close to accepting that only a miracle could solve this problem; then, as a means to continue conversation I happened to ask "can you think of anything that would help this situation." Without a blink of his eye he listed ten very feasible solutions.

As planners we do not need to know the answers, and indeed often we will not be able to, rather we just need to remember to ask the questions! I was so discouraged by the stories of inequality and suffering, which I learned about at the summit. Yet, I left inspired and motivated to join the wonderful efforts around the world merging science and compassion in pursuit of social, economic, and environmental equity.

Holly Killmer is a second-year graduate student in Community and Regional Planning at Iowa State University. She is concentrating in sustainable community development, localization, and citizen participation

Recent Publications

By Angela Jacobs

Recently, the National League of Cities published "Building Quality Communities." It is a "how to guide" designed to teach citizens and local officials how to make local land use decisions by choice instead of by chance. While the publication has much useful information, one of the chapters is especially useful to planners—Watch Your Language. We often find ourselves throwing out terms that laypeople do not understand like sprawl and smart growth. It is important that we make sure people understand how these terms are being used in relation to their community. Make sure you check out the full report which is available in PDF format at http://www.nlc.org/nlc_org/site/files/reports/futrpt01.pdf.

Chair's Corner from Page 2 Continued...

During the meetings of the division council, there were a number of significant pieces of business.

A major discussion had to do with improving means of communication between divisions and the memberships. Increasingly, there seems to be a movement to use electronic means. This segued to pondering how to identify the experts within divisions and promote these expertises through division web sites. There is unanimous agreement that the divisions are the repositories of the expert knowledge base for APA. The issue is how to capture this for the benefit of APA.

For this division, I would like to list on the web site any women and their areas of expertise that would like to be sources of this developing expert knowledge base. Please contact me directly with the information that you would like posted.

Some divisions are losing memberships; the question is how to turn this around? No specific approach was established.

A potentially important agenda item has to do with PAB (Planning Advisory Board) recommendations to strengthen the criteria used to accredit planning schools. This document has been forwarded from the Divisions Council to the Chapter Presidents Council, APA Board, and AICP Commission. The meetings were filled with the potential for change within APA. This is most exciting.

Unfortunately, I learned that there were no nominations submitted for the Diana Donald Award. I continue to be disheartened that we do not honor this award with nominations. Again thanks to Rachael Pitts for leading the nomination process.

The two by-right proposals submitted for the upcoming national conference have been accepted. Besides those, a proposal to develop a planning ethics video for planning commissioners has also been accepted.

The division will be able to do a lot of exciting work in Denver.

Feel free to contact me at any time, Patsi.



Patsi Petrie, Chair

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<http://www.urban.uiuc.edu/apa-pw>

REMINDER: If you have not filled out the online survey about Continuing Profession Development programs, this is a reminder that it will take you about 10 minutes to do so. If you have already, many thanks. This data will be most helpful for planning such programs. The url is <http://www.urban.uiuc.edu/ce/cpdsurvey.asp>

New, Innovative Work Options for the Busy Urban Planner

By Angela Jacobs

Have you ever considered Job Sharing?

Neither did I until a woman in my New Mom's Group sent out a call for assistance in securing a job share position. Officially starting on August 26, 2002, I embarked upon a new and exciting phase of my career, as half of a job share position.

Many working mothers (and some dads too) and those who are responsible for elder care have found it increasingly difficult to juggle family and work responsibilities. Many are viewing job sharing to be the perfect solution to their problems.

Job sharing allows my supervisor to offer my partner and I an opportunity to work a part-time schedule for a position on his team that requires full-time coverage. My supervisor believes that he benefits because he gets to take advantage of a broad range of skills from two individuals doing one job.

In addition, he will get two employees who are focused on work while they are in the office instead of what might be going on at home.

Job sharing can also encourage diversity in the workplace, increase morale and productivity, and allow an organization to be part of an untapped pool of skilled, educated and highly motivated professionals.

My current work arrangement requires me to work 20 hours. I come into the office twice a week (two eight hour days) and telecommute 4 hours from home.

As working mothers continue to enter the workforce, I think it is important for them to be aware of the all of the options available to them. Many major companies are now supportive of job share arrangements.

If others are participating in job share arrangements, please share your story.

For more information about job sharing including openings by employers, please go to the job sharing website <http://www.jobsharing.com/> as well as Work Options, a comprehensive site exploring flex arrangements, <http://www.workoptions.com/>

Important Dates to Remember

1. Deadline for FAICP nomination--Nominations are due to AICP postmarked by October 25, 2002. Please make sure you submit your nominations for Women in Planning Division members as soon as possible. Rachel Pitts agreed to process our nominations. For more information about FAICP nominations, see <http://www.planning.org/faicp/faicp.htm> and for names of the 400+ eligible women along with their state of residency (based on the criteria of 15-years of AICP membership) see the division web page: <http://www.urban.uiuc.edu/apa-pw>.

2. World Town Planning Day is November 8.

3. The APA National conference will be in Denver, Colorado, March 29-April 2, 2003. Planning and Women Division Meeting/Dinner will be at Los Cobos II at 6:30pm, Tuesday, April Fools Day 2003