



Outstanding Planning Student Organization Award Application

Planners' Forum and *Carolina Planning Journal*
December 2015

Submitting Party

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Department of City and Regional Planning
Planners' Forum & Carolina Planning Journal

Current APA-PSO Student Representative

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Category in which the entry is being submitted

Best Practice

Date of submission

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Master's students participate in a student organized resume workshop with planning professionals from the greater Triangle area. (Photo courtesy of Udo Reisinger)



Description of project, activity, event, etc. and how it fulfills the award criteria:

Students at Carolina Planning have been very busy this year. We believe that the following four accomplishments represent a true and meaningful improvement in the experience for students in our department.

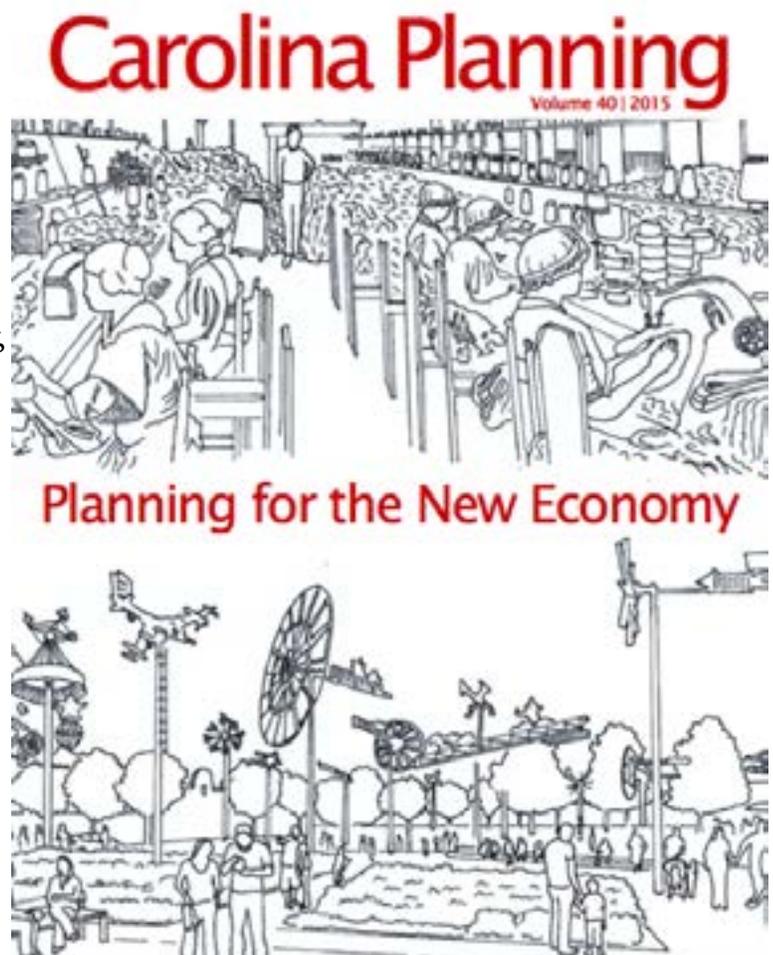
First, the *Carolina Planning Journal* published a print volume in May 2015 around the theme of “Planning for the New Economy.” It also launched a new blog that features student, academic, and practitioner work called **Carolina Angles**. The Launch Party for the blog drew over 100 guests. Carolina Angles publishes twice per week and has already attracted a wide readership of almost 2,000 unique visitors.

Second, our inclusion group, **Plan for All**, hosted twelve events that engaged issues ranging from planning for LGBTQ folks, public engagement best practices, black planning history, hazard planning and equity, and more. The group even hosted Durham Mayor Bill Bell for a conversation about race and poverty in September 2015. Plan for All members are also working with faculty to identify gaps in the curriculum relating to race, class, gender, and equity.

Third, our **Career Development Committee** coordinated a number of events and resources to assist students in finding jobs and internships in the field. This year, the committee hosted a resume workshop and a mock interview event with planning professionals. The group also maintains a database on past internships and is coordinating happy hours with alumni in New York, Seattle, and Chicago.



The Carolina Planning Journal Editorial Board includes master's, doctoral and undergraduate students (Photo courtesy of Cara Isher-Witt)



The Carolina Planning Journal's 2015 print edition, "Planning For the New Economy," highlighted issues such as inclusive prosperity, industrial transition in North Carolina and statewide best practices. (Cover art by Alex McCarn)



Mayor Bill Bell of Durham, North Carolina, presented at a Plan For All brownbag lunch about housing affordability and race. (Photo courtesy of Udo Reisinger)

Lastly, our students organized a **Fall Break Trip to Atlanta** that connected Carolina Planning students with some of Atlanta's most exciting planners. For example, the group met with planner Ryan Gravel, who dreamed up Atlanta's Belt Line. As a result of the trip, Ryan Gravel even contributed a blog post for the Carolina Angles blog. Other events included Tim Keane, Atlanta's Planning Commissioner, and Nedra Deadwyler, founder of Civil Bikes.

Description of the planning process, implementation, and level of success:

The Planners' Forum Co-Presidents began their term by holding a community meeting and conducting a survey to capture the opinions of current planning students. The survey and meetings informed the 2015 Strategic Plan that included four new initiatives: expanded career development activities, the creation of a student guide, revitalization of department community spaces, and the Fall Break Trip. In addition, the plan outlined how Planners' Forum would continue to support the work of its committees and affiliated student groups including Plan for All and the Carolina Planning Journal.

Career development goals were implemented through activities such as the resume workshop, alumni networking events, and financial support for students to attend the NC-APA annual conference in October. The Fall Break Trip also represented networking opportunities for the fourteen student attendees.

The Fall Break Trip to Atlanta included a visit to the Historic Fourth Ward Park, a stormwater retention basin that serves as a community space. (Photo courtesy of Tim J. Quinn)



The Carolina Planning Journal's activities were implemented by an Editorial Board, which includes undergraduate, Masters-level, and doctoral students. The group published Volume 40 of the print journal, launched and maintained Carolina Angles, presented a panel at the NC-APA annual conference, conducted a three-year Strategic Plan, and began a peer review process for the print journal, and raised over \$1,500 through new subscriptions.

Plan for All is co-facilitated by two second-year students with the help of over twenty first-year students who coordinated events, made fliers, and encouraged their peers to participate in meaningful conversation around race, class, and gender. In addition to organizing monthly events, the group successfully petitioned for the implementation of diversity training for students and faculty.

The mission of Planners' Forum is to coordinate with faculty and administration to enhance the experience for master's student in the department. We believe that the initiatives implemented in the past year have not only greatly improved the student experience, but have also made our department stronger and benefitted our wider community.

Thank you for your consideration!
Planners' Forum and *Carolina Planning Journal*





New East Building