CQGRD Hosts Symposium on Megaregions

On June 20th, CQGRD hosted a one-day symposium of leading scholars to discuss the potential uses of “megaregions” in infrastructure planning, as part of a project sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Participants included Dr. Feng Chengchun, head of the Department of Urban and Economic Geography at Peking University (pictured right); Emil Frankel, former Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy of the United States Department of Transportation and current Director of Transportation Policy at the Bipartisan Policy Center; Petra Todorovich, Director of the America 2050 initiative at the Regional Plan Association (pictured left); and Dr. Michael Meyer, professor of civil and environmental engineering at Georgia Tech. To learn more about CQGRD’s megaregional research, see www.cqgrd.gatech.edu/megaregions/index.php.
CQGRD Completes HIA of the Piedmont Hospital Area

In June, CQGRD completed a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) of the neighborhoods surrounding Piedmont Hospital’s Buckhead campus, as part of ongoing research into health and the built environment sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The HIA included a survey of local residents, an inventory of buildings and housing conditions, an extensive walkability assessment, and demographic analysis to determine how the hospital might contribute, negatively or positively, to the health of the surrounding community. For more about CQGRD’s research into healthy places, see http://www.cqgrd.gatech.edu/programs/hp.php.

Healthy Places Research Group Ends Academic Year with Distinguished Panel

On May 6th, the Healthy Places Research Group ended the 2007–2008 academic year by hosting a panel on “Making Healthy Places Happen.” The panel included Bill Floyd, the mayor of Decatur, Georgia; David Green, a principal in the Housing and Mixed-Use Studio at the architecture firm Lord, Aleck & Sargeant; Mack Reese, a partner at Gateway Development Services, a real-estate firm; and Alice Rolls, the executive director of Georgia Organics. The presentations given by Mr. Green, Mr. Reese, and Ms. Rolls are available on CQGRD’s web site (under the 2007-2008 Archive) at http://www.cqgrd.gatech.edu/hprg/calendar.php.

CQGRD Presents Research at ACSP-AESOP and APA Conferences

At the American Planning Association’s annual conference in April, Karen Leone de Nie presented on “A Healthy Perspective on Transportation.” At the joint conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) and Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) in July, Jessica Doyle and Dr. Myungje Woo presented on research related to a Federal Highway Administration-sponsored project concerning megaregional planning, and Jason Barringer presented preliminary findings from a Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)-sponsored study on congestion pricing.
ICA & CA Reception | August 22, 2008 | 7:00 PM | Vino Libro Wine Bar and Bistro
Join the Southeast Chapter of the Young Institute of Classical Architecture and Classical America (ICA & CA) for a welcoming reception honoring Dean Alan Balfour and the 2008-2009 Master of Science in Classical Design Students of the GT College of Architecture on August 22, 2008 at Vino Libro Wine Bar and Bistro. Cocktail reception will begin at 7:00 pm with an optional wine tasting beginning promptly at 7:30 pm. Visit http://www.classicist-se.org/young for additional information. RSVPs are requested to YoungICA@gmail.com by August 14, 2008.

COA Centenary Lecture Series | Begins August 27, 2008 | 6:00 PM | COA Auditorium
As part of the GT College of Architecture’s centenary celebration, alumnus John C. Portman, FAIA, will lecture in the Architecture Auditorium at 6:00 pm on August 27, 2008. Mr. Portman is a world-renowned architect, responsible for, among other buildings, the Hyatt Regency and Merchandise Mart in Atlanta; New York’s Marriott Marquis hotel; Shanghai Centre; Detroit’s Renaissance Center; and the Regent Hotel in Singapore. For more information on the lecture and on other events related to the centenary of the College of Architecture. Visit http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/event.php?id=3104.

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>AUGUST 27</td>
<td>John Portman, FAIA</td>
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<td>SEPTEMBER 10</td>
<td>Merrill Elam, FAIA &amp; Mack Scogin, FAIA</td>
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<td>OCTOBER 15</td>
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<td>NOVEMBER 5</td>
<td>Thomas W. Ventulett, III, FAIA</td>
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<td>NOVEMBER 12</td>
<td>Michael Arad, AIA</td>
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COA Research Forum | Last Thursday of Month | 11:00AM–12:00PM | COA Library
The GT College of Architecture’s Research Forums provide an informal setting for the community to learn about research within the College of Architecture. Forums are free and open to the public and participants are invited to explore ideas and identify opportunities for collaboration. All talks are held in the Architecture Library from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm on the last Thursday of August through April. Talks are 30 to 45 minutes followed by questions and discussion. For more information, visit http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/event.php?id=3108.

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<tr>
<td>AUGUST 28</td>
<td>Charles Eastman</td>
<td>“Building Information Modeling: Revolution in Design and Construction”</td>
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<td>SEPTEMBER 25</td>
<td>Dr. Steven French</td>
<td>“Risk Assessment: Estimating the Consequences of Earthquakes &amp; Other Natural Hazards”</td>
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<td>OCTOBER 30</td>
<td>Dr. Anatoliusz (Tolek) Lesniewski,</td>
<td>“Serious Games in Architecture”</td>
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<td>NOVEMBER 20</td>
<td>Dr. Barbara Deutsch Lynch,</td>
<td>“Planning for Disaster: Peru’s Rio Santa Valley &amp; Accelerating Climate Change”</td>
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Healthy Places Research Group | September 9, 2008 | 7:30AM–9:00AM | CQGRD
The first Healthy Places Research Group (HPRG) meeting of the 2008-2009 academic year will take place on Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 7:30 am in the CQGRD Conference Room. Coffee and refreshments will be provided. For more information and the calendar of events, visit the web site at http://www.cqgrd.gatech.edu/hprg.

GPA 2008 Fall Conference | October 1–3, 2008 | Marriott Augusta Hotel & Suites
The Georgia Planning Association (GPA) will host its annual fall conference October 1-3, 2008 in Augusta, Georgia at the Marriott Augusta Hotel & Suites. The five conference tracks will be Comprehensive Planning and Quality Growth; Transportation Planning; Professional Development; Data and Technology; and Environmental Planning and Sustainable Development. For more information and to register, see http://www.georgiaplanning.org/2008-fall-conference.

CHS America Inaugural Event | November 6–8, 2008 | 9:00AM–5:00PM | GT COA
The Georgia Tech College of Architecture is supporting the formation of an American branch of the Construction History Society (CHS), which was established in England in 1982. Chairman of the organizing committee is Brian Bowen, Professor of Practice at the College of Architecture. An inaugural event for the American branch will be held at Georgia Tech November 6-8, 2008 from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. For more information, contact Harriett Groves at hgroves3@mail.gatech.edu.
Do Ballpark Investments Result in Community Revitalization?

A recent Wall Street Journal article examined what role Nationals Park, the new home of the Washington Nationals baseball team, has played in revitalizing the Southeast neighborhood. The article quotes city councilman Kwame Brown, who originally opposed the building of the stadium, as saying, “Without it we wouldn't be anywhere near where we are today,” pointing to new condominium development nearby. But the writer, Mark Yost, argues that Washington taxpayers got very little of value in return for the $611 million the stadium cost: most of the associated jobs pay very little, and most of the stadium-related revenue is expected to come from ticket and concession sales.

To read the article, go to http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB121625362443460331.html?mod=Sports90_1.

America 2050 Sponsors “Rebuilding and Renewing America” Forum

America 2050, the megaregional initiative sponsored by the Regional Plan Association (RPA), hosted a forum on “Rebuilding and Renewing America” on May 9th in Washington, D.C. The forum was cosponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, The Surdna Foundation, RPA, and the Division of United States Studies at the Woodrow Wilson Center. In addition to roundtable discussions on energy, water, and transportation infrastructure, the forum featured speeches by Ed Rendell, governor of Pennsylvania; Judith Rodin, former president of the University of Pennsylvania; and U.S. Representatives Earl Blumenauer, Chris Shays, Rosa DeLauro, and Tom Petri. For more information and to download a summary of the proceedings, see http://www.rpa.org/pdf/temp/America%202050%20Website/2008/May_9_Summary_Web.pdf.

Housing Downturn Threatens to Be the Worst in a Generation, Says Harvard

The Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University has released its “State of the Nation’s Housing” Report for 2008, confirming that the subprime mortgage crisis has affected millions of people in 2006, up from 6.5 million in 2001; and the number of foreclosures in 2007 (1.3 million) was nearly double that of 2005. Moreover, if a recession produces a weaker labor market, housing demand could continue to fall. The Center has also released “America’s Rental Housing: The Key to a Balanced National Policy,” showing how rents are rising as more renters enter the market, and recommending that policy makers focus more on renters threatened by subprime-related turmoil. To download the “State of the Nation’s Housing” report, go to http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/publications/markets/son2008/index.htm. To learn more about the “America’s Rental Housing” report, go to http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/publications/rental/rh08_americas_rental_housing/index.html.

Metros on the Verge of Transit Independence

According to Neal Peirce, metro regions are forced to find money for transit improvement in their own region, not through federal funding. Many cities are experiencing increased use of transit. Atlanta and Detroit, on the other hand, are at a stalemate regarding transportation infrastructure investment. The full article at http://citiwire.net/post/71/.
Atlanta City Council Taps Students for Design Solutions

The Atlanta City Council recently issued a proclamation to recognize students at the Georgia Tech College of Architecture for assistance in the master planning process for Atlanta’s historic Old Fourth Ward. A senior urban design studio, led by David Green, aimed to inform the execution of actual projects as well as help shape policy regarding zoning issues in the district. For more information, visit http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/story.php?id=1976.

Researchers Present At China Urban Development Forum

Two City and Regional Planning faculty, Professor Nancey Green Leigh and Assistant Professor Jiawen Yang, were invited by China’s Vice Minister Qiu Baoxing to give papers at the 2008 International Forum on Urban Development and Planning that took place in Lang Fang on June 19-21. In response to the growing environmental and transportation challenges accompanying China’s rapid urbanization and economic development, the Forum was sponsored by China’s Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Construction. For more information: http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/story.php?id=2016.

Balfour Named Dean of College of Architecture

After a year-long search, Dr. Alan Balfour was selected as the next Dean of the College of Architecture, succeeding Dr. Thomas Galloway, who passed away in March 2007. Dean Balfour, who began on July 1st, previously served as Dean of the School of Architecture at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) and, from 1977 to 1987, as director of the Architecture Program at Georgia Tech. In 13 years at RPI, Dean Balfour oversaw the growth of the Lighting Research Center, began a cross-disciplinary program with Shanghai’s Tongji University, established a doctoral degree in architectural sciences and helped spearhead the building of an Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center. For more information, see http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/story.php?id=1884.

Stiftel Named Director of City and Regional Planning Program

Dr. Bruce Stiftel, formerly associate dean of graduate studies at Florida State University, was named director of the City and Regional Planning Program on July 23rd. Dr. Stiftel succeeds Dr. Cheryl Contant, who after eight years as director has taken a position as vice-chancellor for academic affairs and dean at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Dr. Stiftel specializes in environmental planning and dispute resolution; his most recent books include Adaptive Governance and Water Conflict (2005) and Dialogues in Urban and Regional Planning (2006). For more information, see http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/story.php?id=2011.
Ross Featured in *Georgia Trend* and *Multi-Housing News*

Dr. Catherine Ross, Harry West Professor of Quality Growth and director of CQGRD leads the Center’s megaregions research and is featured in the August 2008 issue of *Georgia Trend*. In an interview with Jerry Grillo, Dr. Ross discusses Atlanta’s role in the Piedmont Atlantic Megaregion (PAM) and how megaregional planning might transform the region. Dr. Ross was also interviewed by *Multi-Housing News* in July 2008 on building multi-family housing in the wake of increasing foreclosures.

*To see the *Georgia Trend* article, go to www.georgiatrend.com/features-economic-development/08_08_megaregions.shtml.  To read the entire *Multi-Housing News* interview in PDF format, go to www.planning.gatech.edu/PDFs/Ross_7.24.08.pdf.*

West Asks, “How Much Longer Before We Get a Handle on Traffic?” In *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Harry West, Professor of Practice at CQGRD and former executive director of the Atlanta Regional Commission, published an editorial in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in the edition of August 4, 2008. “Traffic has begun to burn out of control in metro Atlanta,” West wrote. “Our region has become a poster child for congestion…How much longer before we act?”

*To read the entire AJC article, go to www.ajc.com/print/content/printedition/2008/08/04/trafficed.html.*