CQGRD leader in Pew Charitable Trusts’ Health Impact Project

A collaboration of The Pew Charitable Trusts and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Health Impact Project is designed to promote the use of health impact assessments (HIAs) as a decision-making tool for policy makers.

CQGRD has been selected as one of three national leaders of health impact assessments to provide technical assistance to others attempting HIAs for the first time. CQGRD will also be conducting two HIAs in addition to assistance provided to other teams; HIAs will be conducted on Aerotropolis Atlanta (the redevelopment of the Hapeville Ford Factory) and a regionally focused HIA to be announced this Spring.

According to the Health Impact Project, HIAs will be promoted by:

• Creating a national center of excellence and to provide the coordination and infrastructure needed to establish HIAs as a field in the United States;
• Demonstrating the effectiveness of HIAs by funding a series of HIA demonstration projects in various sectors and various regions of the country;
• Building training/technical assistance network that will support a new group of HIA practitioners and engage and strengthen current HIA practice centers;
• Completing two major federal-level HIAs to address policies of great importance to health in the United States; and
• Researching and disseminating a review of the existing laws, regulations, and policies that might support the use of and implementation of HIAs.

More information about the Health Impact Project and its initiatives can be found online at http://www.healthimpactproject.org.

HIAs “bring together relevant public input, available data and a range of qualitative and quantitative methods to anticipate the potential health consequences of a proposed policy, program or project. They use a structured yet flexible process for developing practical recommendations that decision makers can use to advance well-informed public policies, programs, and projects that avoid unintended health consequences and unexpected costs.”

— The Health Impact Project
NEWS OF INTEREST FROM
THE CENTER FOR QUALITY GROWTH AND
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CQGRD)

Piedmont Alliance for Quality Growth - Mayors, Business, Academia

Evolving from the previously established Mayors Megaregion Meetings headed by former mayors Shirley Franklin of Atlanta, GA and Pat McCrory from Charlotte, NC and conducted by CQGRD, the Piedmont Alliance for Quality Growth was established in November 2009 during a meeting of the group’s members in Greenville, SC. The organization will seek to build alliances to build intellectual and support infrastructure—especially related around water, transportation, and energy—to enable the region to continue to compete in the global market.

Sponsors include continued support from private entities such as HDR, Parsons Brinckerhoff, and AECOM, and with new support from Duke Energy, the City of Macon, Georgia Power, General Electric, Atlanta Gas Light, and ElectriCities. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for February/March 2010 in Macon, GA. More information available at http://www.cqgrd.gatech.edu/proceedings/mmm_2009.

Special thanks to our meeting sponsors

And thanks to Shook Kelley for sponsoring our luncheon.

ADVANCE Hiring Suggestions Approved by Dean of College of Architecture

ADVANCE is dedicated to analyzing and eliminating gender disparities in the academic setting. At Georgia Tech, it provides resources to: reduce gender bias within the academic setting; mitigate barriers for academics due to family responsibilities; and increase career advancement opportunities for women in the sciences. Dr. Catherine Ross has been appointed as the ADVANCE Professor for Georgia Tech’s College of Architecture, tasked with leading the program for the College. In the months since her appointment as ADVANCE professor, Dr. Ross has aggressively pursued development of the College of Architecture ADVANCE Program. Meetings have been organized on a monthly basis in order to initiate the program and devise assessment and implementation strategies.

In December 2009, the College of Architecture (COA) NSF ADVANCE Program generated a statement on recommended search and hiring process for COA faculty and key personnel and submitted it to Dean Alan Balfour. This statement included best practices for search committees and methods for fairly attracting, evaluating, and hiring diverse candidates. Recognizing the potential value of these guidelines to the future of the College, Dean Balfour promptly approved its dissemination to all COA administrators and other relevant faculty and staff. Use of the search and hiring recommendations is expected to bring a wider range of talent and expertise in to the College, to help retain and advance current faculty, and to increase the College’s prestige with both potential students and peer institutions.
Healthy Places Research Group 2009-2010 Academic Year

The Healthy Places Research Group is pleased to kick off the spring 2010 semester with a speech from Aaron Wernham, Project Director of the Health Impact Assessment Coordinating Center at the Pew Charitable Trusts regarding national efforts to expand the use of Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) on January 20, 2010 at Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health. Other spring HPRG dates include:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Location</th>
<th>Speaker/Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>January 20</td>
<td>7:30 - 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Emory University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>8:00 - 10:00 AM</td>
<td>Georgia State University (with GSU’s Urban Fellows)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>7:30 - 9:00 AM</td>
<td>CQGRD</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>7:30 - 9:00 AM</td>
<td>Emory University</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>7:30 - 9:30 AM</td>
<td>Georgia State University</td>
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ADVANCE Workshop and Luncheon | January 19, 2010 | 11:00 AM - Noon | GT College of Architecture Library

The College of Architecture ADVANCE program will host a workshop on gender and communication. This event will feature a panel of speakers who will discuss the communication challenges women may experience in the academic setting, and methods for overcoming them to achieve success. This event will be at 11 AM and will be held in the Architecture building. More information available at http://www.cqgrd.gatech.edu/event.php?id=4784.

AIA Winter Symposium: Architecturally Speaking | January 19, 2010 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM | GT College of Architecture Reinsch-Pierce Family Auditorium

Discussions on staying current in architecture curricula. Speakers include George Johnston, director of the Georgia Tech Graduate Program in Architecture; Brian Wishne of Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD); Tony Rizzuto of Southern Polytechnic State University. Panel discussion following presentations moderated by Frank Harmon, FAIA. More information available at http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/event.php?id=5343.

School of City and Regional Planning Book Series | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM | GT College of Architecture Reinsch-Pierce Family Auditorium

By the year 2050, megaregions will contain two-thirds of the U.S. population. Given the projected growth of the U.S. population and the accompanying geographic changes, this forward-looking book argues that U.S. planners and policymakers must examine and implement the megaregion as a new and appropriate framework. For more information, visit http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/event.php?id=4760.

Georgia Tech College of Architecture Research Forum | 11:00 AM - Noon | GT College of Architecture Library

Debates and discussions with Thom Mayne, Liz Diller, Michael Meredith, Alejandro Zaera-Polo, Paul Finch, Jeffrey Kipnis, Alan Balfour, Jennifer Bonner and Mack Scogin. For more information, visit http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/event.php?id=5354.

Imagining a Better Future | March 12-13, 2010 | GT College of Architecture Reinsch-Pierce Family Auditorium

Debates and discussions with Thom Mayne, Liz Diller, Michael Meredith, Alejandro Zaera-Polo, Paul Finch, Jeffrey Kipnis, Alan Balfour, Jennifer Bonner and Mack Scogin. For more information, visit http://www.coa.gatech.edu/news/event.php?id=5354.
December HPRG Takes Field Trip

The Healthy Places Research Group (HPRG) ventured outside of the lecture room and into a tour of Perimeter Place, a development near Perimeter Mall in Dunwoody, for the December 2009 meeting. Ellen Dunham-Jones, Associate Professor at the College of Architecture at Georgia Tech, spoke about her book *Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs*. Throughout the tour of the site, she demonstrated how urban design principles were implemented to some extent, but were not completed to the greatest extent possible. She also spoke about the upcoming Congress for New Urbanism (CNU) Conference *Rx for Healthy Places* to be held in Atlanta, GA on May 19-22, 2010 and how the policies of health are increasingly being integrated into the built environment.

For more information, visit: http://www.cqgrd.gatech.edu/proceedings/hprg/index.php.

CQGRD Participates in Southeast Smart Growth Network

The Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development is currently participating in a collaborative effort to improve the dissemination of information on smart growth policies, practices and research to organizations dedicated to building the capacity of communities in the southeastern United States to implement smart growth. In July 2009, the Southeast Watershed Forum with the support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Tennessee Valley Authority surveyed more than 80 of these organizations and the interest among these groups in forming a Southeast Smart Growth Network was overwhelming.

After an initial conference call in the fall of 2009, a planning team brainstorming meeting was set up for December 2009. This meeting included representatives from the Southeast Watershed forum, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), University of Georgia (UGA), and Georgia Tech’s CQGRD. At this meeting, the planning team composed a draft mission statement and the beginnings of an outline about how to define a southeastern smart growth network and what types of activities the group might undertake. In addition, four work groups were formed to develop an initial participatory action plan for key areas of work. These groups are: organization structure and funding strategy; website and other communication mechanisms; resources and research; and video conferencing. The groups are meeting independently to develop scopes of work, timelines, and goals and objectives and will report the results back to the planning team. A follow up meeting will be scheduled in spring 2010.

Congress for the New Urbanism Conference to focus on Healthy Places

Organized with assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the annual Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) topic is *Rx for Healthy Places*. The goal of the conference is to present new and innovative research and techniques for assessing the health impact of land use, transportation planning, and community design decisions at multiple scales.

Despite its reputation with sprawl, Atlanta was chosen as the 2010 host city according to CNU President John Norquist because “Atlanta is fast becoming known for universities and research facilities doing ground-breaking work on retrofitting communities to make them healthier and more economically and environmentally sustainable. It also has a rich network of local organizations committed to making communities more healthy and livable.” As a featured speaker at the conference, Dr. Ross was quoted in the promotional video as saying “Atlanta is on an upward trend and really is practicing a lot of the principles of New Urbanism.” Ellen Dunham-Jones is also scheduled to speak during the conference. For more information, visit: http://www.cnu.org/cnu18/.
Peterson leads Georgia Tech’s Strategic Planning Effort

On August 3, 2009, President Bud Peterson convened a meeting to begin the one-year strategic planning process for the Georgia Institute of Technology to plan to 2035. The purpose of the strategic planning process is to chart a course for Georgia Tech that provides agility in a rapidly changing environment, enables investments to be made today to prepare for the future, and serve the state, region, and nation through education, research, creative works, and service.

The strategic plan for Georgia Tech will be divided into eight themes:
- Sustain and Enhance Our Culture;
- Enrich the Student Experience;
- Redesigning Education: What and How we Teach and Learn;
- Ensure Georgia Tech’s Research Preeminence;
- Enhance Georgia Tech’s Role in Georgia (Co-chaired by CQGRD’s Dr. Catherine Ross);
- Leverage Georgia Tech’s Global Engagement;
- Lead in Big Payoff, Transdisciplinary Areas; and

Strategic themes and public discussion occurred during fall 2009. A Final draft of the Strategic Plan will be compiled by May 2010, reviewed during summer 2010, and released fall 2010. For more information, visit: http://www.gatech.edu/vision/.

Re-establishment of the School of City and Regional Planning

In fall 2009, the Georgia Tech College of Architecture announced the re-establishment of academic programs as five individual schools: Architecture; Construction; City and Regional Planning; Industrial Design; and Music. The purpose of this restructuring is to strengthen the disciplines within the College, improve student experiences, and fortify the research agenda of the college as a whole.

The School of City and Regional Planning replaces the City and Regional Planning Program, continuing Tech’s work in support of the urban planning profession begun in 1952 when Howard Menhinick came to the Institute from the Tennessee Valley Authority to found the Graduate City Planning Program.

With the support of two preeminent research centers—the Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development and the Center for Geographic Information Systems—the School of City and Regional Planning is consistently ranked among the nation’s top programs in city planning. These research Centers together with School faculty annually conduct in excess of $2.5M of sponsored research for government, industry, and third sector clients.


Old Architecture Building Restoration Completed

Re s t o r a t i o n of the East Architecture building began with the original Dean’s Office, designed by former architecture professor and director P.M. Heffernan. The auditorium was also renovated with donations by Dolores Reinsch, Lola C. Reinsch, and J. Almont Pierce (Arch 1958).

Upon Balfour’s return as Dean, he made the decision to move his office from the West Architecture Building to the East Architecture Building, arguing that the Dean’s Suite should be at the front of the College where Heffernan had intended it. Dean Balfour personally worked with the contractor to ensure the historic character of these spaces was maintained.

Office of Urban Affairs National Tour

The White House Office of Urban Affairs, headed by Adolfo Carrion, was established in February 2009 by President Obama to:

• provide leadership for and coordinate the development of a policy agenda for urban America across executive departments and agencies;
• coordinate all aspects of urban policy; to work with executive departments and agencies to ensure that appropriate consideration is given by such departments and agencies to the potential impact of their actions on urban areas;
• work with executive departments and agencies, including the Office of Management and Budget, to ensure that Federal Government dollars target to urban areas are effectively spent on the highest-impact programs; and
• engage in outreach and work closely with State and local officials, with nonprofit organizations, and with the private sector, both in seeking input regarding the development of a comprehensive urban policy and in ensuring that the implementation of Federal programs advances the objectives of that policy.

The Office is promoting a nationwide tour titled “National Conversation on the Future of America’s cities and Metropolitan Areas” highlighting cities using economic stimulus money in ground breaking ways. Some of the stops on the Tour have included Philadelphia, highlighting its Fresh Food Financing Initiative (FFFI), an effort to bring fresh food to both rural and urban underserved communities, Kansas City, highlighting the Green Impact Zone, an initiative which uses federal and local resources to invest in components of sustainable living and to create jobs in one of the city’s most challenged communities, and to Seattle, who has been at the forefront of medical innovation with the increased development of the biotech and life sciences industry. A stop is scheduled for the Atlanta region, focusing on the high-tech development of the area.

Ross invited to White House Christmas Party

Dr. Ross was invited to and attended the White House Christmas Party on December 15, 2009. She serves as an advisor to the White House Office of Urban Affairs, led by Adolfo Carrion.

Danner travels to Northwest U.S.

Over the Thanksgiving Holidays, CQGRD Research Scientist Amy Danner traveled to the Northwest United States. She visited the cities of Portland, OR, Seattle, WA, and Vancouver, BC, traveling by Amtrak train between the cities, as well as visiting the towns of Port Angeles, Forks, and La Push, WA. Although the weather was about 40 degrees and raining each day, Amy traversed the cities, walking anywhere between 6 and 10 miles per day. She also took over 1200 pictures during her 10-day trip. “I was so excited to see how these ‘meccas’ of city planning were doing it right...”