FROM THE PRESIDENT

I can't tell you how excited I am about the coming two years with SCAPA. We are at a particularly interesting time in South Carolina as we gear up for required training of our commissioners and board members and explore new ways to provide continuing education for both citizen and professional planners. I am particularly pleased that the spirit of cooperation evident in the partnership that brought us the SC Planning Academy for many years is alive and well as we work with a variety of groups across South Carolina to prepare for these training programs.

Our goal is to provide easy and affordable access to meaningful training for our close to 4000 citizen planners across the Palmetto State and we will be providing more details as the programs are developed.

I want to extend a warm welcome to our newly elected and appointed SCAPA Executive Committee members. I look forward to working with Skip, Phil, Susan, Harold, Brana, Sharon, Terry, and Michelle in the coming year. Thanks too to everyone who has committed their valuable time to SCAPA by serving on a committee, providing research and input, and by attending our conferences. I hope the energy and enthusiasm grows in the coming year. To that end, I would like to issue a two part challenge to everyone:

1. Please encourage young professionals, and those not currently involved in APA and SCAPA to join and participate. We have a great opportunity to reach out to those who aren’t involved and provide them a chance to network, learn, and participate in this dynamic organization.

2. Encourage citizen planners and allied professionals to become part of SCAPA through an associate membership. It is an affordable way to keep in touch with our organization.

If we each encouraged just one person to become more active, imagine the type of interaction, the level of programs, and the expertise we could share across South Carolina. Our membership is our biggest strength.

We are planning some exciting conferences in 2005. We’re returning to Greenville on July 15 for a day and will be in Charleston alongside the national meeting of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ASCP) conference this October which should provide us access to some nationally known speakers.

Tripp
SCAPA welcomes our new Executive Committee

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Clemson Student Chapter Representative: Michelle Branyon
michelle_branyon@yahoo.com

Commissioner Representative: Open

Chapter Administrator: Pat Collins
SCAPA
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Beginning in 2005 we will be distributing the newsletter electronically. It is of utmost importance that your e-mail address in the APA record is up-to-date. All members can now access their APA profiles and make changes online. These changes become effective immediately (mailed or faxed changes requiring manual entry will take longer to appear). To access your APA profile go to www.planning.org/myprofile. Enter your APA ID (from the Planning magazine mailing label or invoice) and password (click on “create new password” if you’ve forgotten it or do not have one). Send a message to the Webmaster@planning.org if you need assistance.
Please be aware that the “Billboard Bill” H 3381 has been reincarnated for this legislative session. The Billboard Bill is on the fast track and is before LCI subcommittee of House Members. Please contact members of this committee and urge them not to support this bill, it’s more stringent on local than state government and sets a dangerous precedent for non conforming uses. This is not like the NC law recently passed which was based on tax value, in this version of this bill you must compensate them for relocation as well as lost revenue. Please oppose this as strongly as possible.

S304 The “Hog Bill” has risen from the ashes of last legislative session. The insidious thing about this bill is the last sentence which would exempt agribusiness, business and industry from local regulation. Please explain this to your Senator and urge them to oppose this assault on home rule.

The following is a rundown of other bills of interest filed this session:
S 70 Sexually Oriented Signs and where they can be located
S 92 Political Sign removal
S 97 Establish regional authority to establish redevelopment plans
S 167 Compensation under imminent domain
S 179 Coordination of planning/infrastructure areas
S 180 Comprehensive infrastructure development act
S 232 Extend PC report time to 45 days
S 337 Business registration fee
S 373/374 County regulations that are stricter than state law for sale of alcohol and tobacco are unenforceable
H 3215 Utilities cannot violate local zoning ordinances

If you want a copy of any of these bills go to www.scstatehouse.net and you can download them by number. Please get active and urge your council members to speak to your local legislator/senator and ask them to oppose the Billboard and Hog bills and make a few contacts yourself it can’t hurt.

Remembering Debbie

Donations to the Debbie Lieu Scholarship Fund should be made to “SCAPA”, with the notation “Debbie Lieu Scholarship” included on all checks. Please send to: SCAPA,
P.O. Box 683,
Clemson, SC 29633
COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANTS AVAILABLE

**** Apply Now! ****

The South Carolina Forestry Commission, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, is pleased to announce that funds have been appropriated for the 2005 Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Financial Assistance & Partnership Program. This is a reimbursable, matching grant program to provide funding for projects that improve the management, conservation and maintenance of the tree resource in and around South Carolina communities. The funding cycle for this program is July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.

For an overview of the program’s guidelines see the enclosed brochure. If you are eligible to apply and interested in receiving an application packet, please return the enclosed response card immediately.

Four regional grant writing workshops will be held around the state in March and April. First-time applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one of the workshops. If you or someone in your organization would like to attend, please return the registration form along with the grant packet response card.

Completed grant proposals must be received at the Forestry Commission Headquarters on May 6, 2005. Therefore, we urge you to return your response card and workshop registration form as soon as possible to allow adequate time to develop a strong, well written proposal. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (803) 896-8846 or gfreeman@forestry.state.sc.us.

Gloria Freeman
Grant Assistant Administrator
P.O. Box 21707, Columbia SC 29221
Urban & Community Financial Assistance & Partnership Program
Regional Grant Writing Workshops

Locations and dates:
March 30, 2005    9AM to 12 NOON
   SC Forestry Commission Office    Florence
March 31, 2005    1:30PM to 4:30PM
   SC Forestry Commission Office    Walterboro
April 5, 2005    1:30PM to 4:30 PM
   Spartanburg Technical College    Spartanburg
April 7, 2005    9AM to 12 NOON
   SC Forestry Commission Office    Columbia

NO REGISTRATION FEE REQUIRED

Brief Agenda
1. Overview of the Urban and Community Forestry Program

2. Grant proposal format
   Narrative Components
   Project Types
   Award Criteria

3. Fiscal matters/budget
   Matching Funds
   Allowable Costs
   Competitive Bids

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CUT AND RETURN BOTTOM PORTION TO:
Gloria Freeman, U&CF Grant Assistance Administrator
SC Forestry Commission
PO Box 21707, Columbia, SC 29221

Name(s) of those attending: _____________________________
____________________________
____________________________

Municipality, Organization, or Agency: _____________________________

Mailing Address:________________________________________

Phone:_______________Fax #______________ Email__________________

Registration confirmation, directions and any other necessary
information will be sent to those listed as attending.

Got something to share? What ever it is, we’d like to hear from you. Show case a project, express an opinion, or just share issues and information with your colleagues.

Deadlines for submittal to the Palmetto Planner are:
Spring Issue 5/15
Fall Issue 8/15
Winter Issue 11/15

Please submit your articles to:
Pat Collins
SCAPA Administrator
PO Box 683
Clemson, SC 29633
864-221-1433
pcollins@cityofclemson.org

Don’t Forget
to visit us on
the web at
www.SCAPA.org
Student Chapter Update
February 2005

Hello,

My name is Michelle Branyon, and I am the new Student Chapter President of SCAPA for 2005. Spring is in the air and another semester has begun. After an enjoyable Christmas holiday, it is time for Clemson planning students to get back to work. The first-year planning students survived their first semester of graduate school, even quantitative methods, and have started to adjust to the rigors of the planning program. Sadly, we also lost one of our very own over the break, Ric Ridder. He was a graduate student in the Master of Real Estate Development program and an alumnus of the Architecture program. He is survived by his wife and 4-year-old daughter, Aspen. Please contact the student chapter to donate to his daughter’s college fund set up in his memory. Ric will be greatly missed by all of us in the Clemson family.

Clemson Planning students continue to work on their core classes, and many have chosen individual electives, varying from Problems in Site Planning to Planning Communication, Sustainable Development, and Transportation Analysis. Professor Bob Bainbridge recently took the site planning course on a three day design charrette in Walterboro, SC to analyze the community’s character. I would like to thank the citizens of Walterboro and its planning staff for being so hospitable to the students during their stay. The charrette was an incredible experience for everyone involved and was a great success.

The second-year students continue to work diligently on their Thesis/Terminal Projects, while also serving at their assistantships. Some are looking to continue their schooling in Ph.D and Law programs, while others are actively seeking employment opportunities. The first year students are also working hard to obtain their summer internships in the planning field. Many are considering staying in the Upstate, while some are seeking opportunities in other areas of the country. We look forward to gaining hands on experience in the field and applying the skills we have learned throughout this past year.

Please feel free to contact me at michelle_branyon@yahoo.com with any questions or comments you may have about the student chapter. Thank you for reading this edition of the Palmetto Planner!

Michelle Branyon
Small Cities Publishing
PRESS RELEASE

Jan. 10, 2005
IMMEDIATE RELEASE For more information: Betsy Bean
betsybean@smallcities.us (912 264 1456)

New “best practices” website for small city governments

Brunswick, Ga - Small Cities Publishing recently unveiled a new membership-based web site devoted exclusively to the information needs of mayors, managers, and councils in small cities under 50,000. The site, www.smallcities.us, is packed with over 200+ best practice articles and case studies in the categories of Budgeting; Downtown Development; Council Process; New Development; Elected Officials; Citizen Involvement; Historic Preservation; Law Enforcement; Personnel; and Technology. Each month, a profile of a new best practice from a small city is posted at the site. Recent titles have included: How to become a certified sustainable community; How to hire a city manager with the help of a citizens’ committee; Using a public process to create a values-based ethics code; Using the tools of private industry to acquire and rehab vacant properties. “We try to provide the level of detail and supporting documentation so that our subscribers will have a ‘running start’ on implementing these practices in their communities,” says publisher Betsy Bean. In addition, there is a library of ordinances, forms, and other relevant documents. Other features include an Expert’s Corner of columns from some of the country’s leading local government consultants. Len Wood is a budget expert who makes this complex process understandable. John Gann is an innovative redevelopment planner. Eli Mina is a parliamentarian with brilliant insight into the meeting process. Bill Shelton is a well-known economic development professional with particular expertise in retail recruitment. Carl Neu is a widely published and sought-after trainer for strategic planning and Karen Susman is a public speaking coach and citizen involvement expert. Another useful feature is Meeting with the Mayor, which showcases interviews with successful mayors and how they have handled tough problems in their