

Student Planning Association

April 2009

Hello All,

Allow me to welcome you to the first installment of the "President's Letter." This letter serves as a monthly update regarding the business and state of affairs of the Kansas State University Student Planning Association. First a brief background is in order:

In conjunction with the fairly recent changes in the Regional and Community Planning program at Kansas State (the creation and subsequent accreditation of the 5 year non-baccalaureate masters degree), the Student Planning Association has undergone a similarly substantial evolution as well. Initially this evolution was limited to reworking the constitution to allow undergraduate members and officers, as well as creating new officers' positions to ensure adequate representation of all members. These changes primarily occurred in the 2006-2007 academic year under former President and current alumnus Chad Bunger. Having laid the constitutional framework to allow for the expansion of the Student Planning Association, the next logical step for the incoming administration was to emphasize professional networking and cooperation. Thus, under the 2008-2009 Presidency of Shannon Williams significant efforts were made to increase conference attendance and cooperation with professional organizations including the City of Manhattan, KSAPA, and APA. After successful terms in both administrations as the 5 Year Non-Baccalaureate Representative, and Vice-President (respectively), I was very pleased to take over as SPA President in January of this year.

In the further progression of the Kansas State University Student Planning Association the current administration is currently focused on the large need for public education and promotion of the planning profession and program. I am of the opinion that this is of the utmost importance for our association, our program, and our college. We are a vital part of a well known and respected College of Architecture, Planning and Design, but all too often it appears that incoming students are simply ignorant of the planning profession. We are convinced that a

majority of this ignorance is due to a lack of public outreach, in conjunction with the particular difficulty one encounters while attempting to define the planning profession. Therefore it has become a main tenet of the Student Planning Association to facilitate and provide this public outreach and education. Currently we have developed a website, as well as numerous promotional materials for the fast-approaching Open House on April 18<sup>th</sup> and next fall's "senior days," class presentations, etc. It is, for all intents and purposes, a comprehensive campaign. We have also over-hauled our Open House display, program, and location. We will be utilizing our studio on the third floor of Seaton Hall, and we will be offering presentations and drawings featuring official SPA t-shirts and official CAPD merchandise.

In addition to our public outreach efforts, the Student Planning Association has maintained its emphasis on networking and conference attendance. Thanks in large part to our previous administration, we currently have a record 9 students registered to attend to this year's American Planning Association National Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota from April 25-29<sup>th</sup>. As an organization we have enjoyed enriching and beneficial conference experiences and feel that this year's conference will not disappoint.

I fear this brief letter doesn't give justice to the amount of work that the Student Planning Association's members have put into advancing the association and program this semester. However, it is very rewarding for me as President to be associated with the current SPA officers and members and I am very proud and grateful of their work. As an active member of SPA during its previously outlined evolution, I can honestly say that the Student Planning Association has grown into a viable and relevant club to help enrich Kansas State University. I am supremely excited to see what heights we can reach in the next 8 months.

Cordially,

Adam Runner

SPA President