I. Introduction

The priorities for the coming year for the GARP Department are to hire a tenure track, physical geography professor to replace Anthony Bonacquisti, commencing January 2008. Our other searches will include a tenure track, urban geography professor to replace Mirela Newman to commence September 2008, and another tenure track physical geography position to commence September 2008. The goals of the GARP Department for 2007-2008 are:

• Maintain our contribution of geography courses in the common core;
• Develop new courses in regional planning that meet the criteria for accreditation standards for the Regional Planning Program;
• Develop a GIST Technology Center for the college;
• Expand recruitment efforts to educate students about the advantages of a dual major in regional planning with their current major;
• Maintain cross-registered GARP/ PADM courses to support the MPA graduate program, and;
• Develop linkages with the Institute of Homeland Security at WSC to provide GIS/ GPS training. National trends support our priorities by showing major increases in grant/ research funding, jobs and higher education programming in hazardous mitigation planning and community preparedness planning. We look forward to hiring professors to fill these teaching roles and to develop action plans to meet the goals of the GARP Department.

II. 2006/2007 Academic Year Review/ New Undertakings

Our two new faculty are extremely qualified professors with the expertise and skills we need to lead our program. Both professors have already shown what a great fit they are to our program, developing courses and proposing several initiatives to support our Regional Planning Program. Marijoan Bull taught world regional geography and two planning courses that had not been taught recently. The land use course included projects that support the community service component of the college mission and the WSC Strategic Plan. Marijoan is also developing a proposal for a Community Planning Seminar/ Workshop, which will be conducted in collaboration with the WSC Development Foundation and Westfield city planning officials. The purpose of the workshop will be to educate the college community and residents of Westfield and the surrounding hilltowns about new projects, as well as renovation efforts, coming to downtown Westfield and surrounding neighborhoods.

Carsten Braun taught physical geography, labs and the GIS courses. Carsten has developed a GIST proposal, which is a plan for a dedicated GIS Laboratory under the auspices of the GARP Department. The GIST Technology proposal is a collaborative effort between GARP and the Environmental Science Program. The GIST Center will be
a dedicated GIS laboratory in Bates Hall 22 that will provide computer work stations and ancillary facilities to support GIS teaching, research and projects for faculty and students in the regional planning major and other disciplines across campus. The purpose of the GIST Center is to strengthen and expand the GIS course offerings that the GARP Department currently offers. The mission of the GIST Center will be to provide a central focus for the study of GIS across campus. Outreach will include establishing linkages with other campus departments and programs including Biology, Environmental Science, Criminal Justice, the Homeland Security Institute, Business and Marketing and Communications and community groups (See attached GIST proposal in the appendix).

In collaboration with Jeanne Julian and the president’s office, I developed a proposal for international education, which was submitted to Patton Boggs in Washington, D.C. The proposal is currently under consideration in Congress (See White Paper in the appendix).

Over the course of the year I met with planners at the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in Boston to develop a scope of work for Phase Two of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for municipal planning officials. The CDBG Program is an extension of an I\(^3\) grant that I was awarded in 2005. The online course, maCDBG.com, will be reviewed and edited by planners from city planning agencies and the Regional Planning Program at WSC in collaboration with DHCD planners. The goal is to conduct a pilot program to evaluate the CDBG modules over the course of the summer 2007. In the fall 2007 conferences will be held to develop a timeline for work products and the implementation of action plans over the course of spring 2007- fall 2008.

III. Faculty Accomplishments

See individual faculty reports in the appendix.

IV. Student and Student Club Accomplishments

Carsten supervised several GIS student projects for area communities, including a trail map for the Poet’s Seat in Greenfield. In collaboration with Rick Werbiskis, Senior Planner for the Town of West Springfield, I coordinated a student group project to update the West Springfield Open Space Plan. The students conducted a land use inventory matrix and developed a survey to measure resident attitudes about land use conservation and recreational needs.

Michael Vorwerk, serving as Coordinator of the Environmental Planning Club, has organized numerous student club activities throughout the past year. Students and faculty participated in Westfield River Clean-Ups, group projects/ research efforts to collect water samples from the river, several speaker events/ workshops, and hikes and canoe trips. The Environmental Planning Club serves a high percentage of regional planning and environmental science dual majors.

V. Enrollment
The number of regional planning majors remains at an average of 35-45. Males comprise 69.57% and females 30.43%, compared to the college statistics of 55.3% female and 44.7% male. The racial and gender diversity for regional planning majors is on average comparable to the overall college statistics. Faculty diversity remains low. With several new hires in the near future we hope to improve these statistics. We maintain a percentage of 35-45% dual majors in regional planning and environmental science.

The numbers of students enrolled in contribution courses remains extremely high with overloaded sections of physical geography and labs, world regional geography and cultural geography. The total number of students for fall 06 for GARP was 956 and spring 07 was 704. These numbers fall within the upper range of total students across all departments. With the GARP faculty at 6 full-time professors our ratio of faculty to students is one of the highest amongst all the departments.

VI. Analysis of Enrollment Trends and Preferences

Enrollment trends for common core classes remain at a steady high with physical geography and lab sections at 16-18 and above, world regional sections at 35, and cultural sections at 30. Considering our tenuous position at this time with several teaching gaps, we will focus on hiring professors who will meet our needs in serving environmental science and planning majors. As new hires come on board, we will offer planning courses according to the specialties of the new faculty.

VII. SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS

The GARP Department stands in the forefront in educating students across campus in globalization trends and sustainable practices. Our department educates students across campus to become geographically literate. As the only state college Regional Planning Program in New England, we continue to educate our majors in updated planning theories and case studies and the latest technical GIS and statistical programs. Our graduates continue to get planning jobs in various sub specialty planning areas including economic development, housing, transportation and GIS. Our faculty members are committed to department goals and continue to conduct research and participate in conferences related to their specialty areas in geography and planning.

WEAKNESSES

Our primary weakness at this stage is our vulnerability due to gaps in the curriculum. The uncertainty about our continuing turnover in faculty reinforces the need for administrative approval for new hires. We face gaps in physical geography, landform evaluation and remote sensing. We need to hire faculty strong in physical geography, urban planning and geomorphology to provide the foundations necessary for accredited planning education.
OPPORTUNITIES

At this stage of replacement in our department we have a tremendous opportunity to refine the vision and direction of the department to better serve the students. Since 9/11 the federal government has created planning grants for state and municipalities to hire planners to develop community preservation, protection and preparedness plans. The department feels strongly that we should educate and prepare our graduates for this opportunity in the workforce. We believe strongly that we should refine our vision to emphasize preparation in regional plan-making to acquire grant funding.

We should hire an urban/ regional planner to develop regional planning courses such as economic development, fiscal and transportation planning to meet PAB standards. We should hire another strong GIS/ remote sensing faculty member to strengthen our curriculum and develop the GIS links.

The focus on plan development is currently being pursued with GIS/ GPS mapping and research links with the criminal justice department and the Homeland Security Institute. Statistics show that there is high student interest in GIS techniques in related disciplines including biology, business/ marketing and economics, and communications. With the direction of the department following a path towards accreditation in regional planning, we need to meet the guidelines and criteria of the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB). We have a tremendous opportunity to hire faculty to support our vision.

THREATS

Throughout the history of the Regional Planning Program, we have had difficulty recruiting students at the freshmen/sophomore level. Students join the major after their second year. The name recognition and popularity of other new programs could further erode our ability to attract new majors.

VIII. Space and Technology Needs of Department

The most pressing space concern for our department is a dedicated GIS Laboratory. The GIST Center would strengthen and expand our GIS courses, while creating interdisciplinary links with related departments and surrounding city planning agencies.

The GARP Department needs upgraded meteorology software and weather equipment. With the increased interest in online courses through the Center for Community Planning, the GARP Department plans to focus on developing more online courses for technical assistance to communities. These courses require assistance from CIT to improve access of courses in municipalities across the state and potential satellite sites for workshops and special group project research.

IX. Summary of Progress on Program Assessment
a. The department has developed programmatic outcomes that measure student learning. The outcomes are posted on the Academic Affairs website.

b. Outcomes have been linked with specific assignments embedded in courses or as part of the students’ overall program. Examples of outcomes are:

- “Demonstrates spatial analysis by indicating geographic placement in physical, social, and cultural geography” is an outcome for geographic foundations for the student. Assignments for place location are embedded in the geography core courses to measure this skill: GARP 101, GARP 102, GARP105 and GARP210.
- “Identifies relationships among the various systems of the earth” is an outcome for geographic foundations. Assignments in classification, organization and pattern recognition measure this skill and are embedded in GARP 101, GARP102 and GARP210.
- “Explains connections between regional planning theories and problems in the field” is an outcome for regional planning foundations. Assignments in individual and group site plan reports, and evaluation and condition studies measure this skill and are embedded in GARP317, GARP344, GARP346 and GARP 391, and ENVS 391.
- “Matches appropriate tools and techniques to solve community planning problems” is an outcome for regional planning foundations. Assignments in the use of census data and condition survey are embedded in GARP391, GARP346 and ENVS391 teach this skill.

Programmatically, students are assessed for geographic and regional planning foundations at the beginning of the program through map analysis, and at the end during a jury in GARP391.

c. We are not required by an external program organization to aggregate student data. The department does sample student evidence in spatial analysis and classification through map portfolios in the geographic core courses. The regional planning problem solving evidence is gathered through jury review at the end of their program in GARP391. Evaluation of performance of geographic and regional planning standards is used to determine effectiveness of course assignments. Curricular revisions are made when it is determined a large percentage of students did not meet performance standards.

d. Results/ findings on map placement assessment have been collected for GARP101 and GARP102 classes. Analysis shows 80-90% pass rate. Students who do not pass map location/ spatial analysis tests are given interactive exercises to improve their skills. Data have been collected on problem solving skills to match tools and techniques with community problems. The analysis of this data indicates that students who do not conduct a comprehensive literature review of model tools, techniques and bylaws, and case studies do not apply appropriate tools to solve
community problems. Program improvement involved revising assignments in GARP105, GARP219 and GARP315 to include individual site assignment work in case review and problem solving.

X. Long-term Plans

The vision of the GARP Department is to educate planners who will shape, design and plan our communities for the future. Our majors graduate with effective problem solving skills to solve serious urban and environmental problems we now face globally. The curricular goals are to provide a strong foundation in geography and theoretical and practical skills in regional planning. Future program development will focus on the linkage with the MPA Program, specifically in the development of more advanced community preparedness courses and GIS related coursework with criminal justice and economics and business. GIS is integral to public safety and security planning and evacuation planning, topics that are in the forefront of plan-making.

As we search for new professors, we need to fill in some gaps and extend our curricular base in certain areas to put us in motion towards accreditation of our planning program. We need to hire professors with the following qualifications over the next two years:

a. A physical geographer whose research focuses on soils and site assessment, with strong GIS/remote sensing technical skills.
b. A physical geographer who focuses on landform evaluation and geomorphology or environmental hazards planning.
c. An urban geographer who focuses on site location analysis and urbanization.
d. An urban geographer/economic development professor who would contribute community and economic development, fiscal budget and transportation courses.

The GARP Department’s vision is closely aligned with the WSC Five-Year Strategic Plan mission and vision to contribute to community service. As a department we offer opportunities for student group research and studies to assist area communities in technical plan-making. The internship program is structured around community outreach and technical assistance.

The action plans that the GARP Department has established support the following goals that will be de-emphasized, but ongoing priorities of the strategic plan. The assessment and outcomes for each priority are linked to the action plans. GARP Department action plans are indicated for each of the three college wide goals:

- Goal # 11: *Provide alternative educational instruction.* Actions: Online Center for Community Planning and online and Saturday classes for the MPA Program; and site-based learning and internships.
• Goal # 16: *Create a welcoming and inclusive environment.* Actions: Coordinate presentations and workshops and update articulation agreements for the major at the surrounding community colleges;

• Goal # 26: *Increase fundraising initiatives including grants and contracts.* Actions: Follow-Up with grant-writing to extend the Center for Community Planning grant; expand outreach activities with group project/land trust and GIS grants, including the GIST Center; and application for international education and training.

The GARP Department has developed action plans to support the goals for the next fiscal year:

• Goal # 1 & 2: *Assess students’ needs for academic and personal support, and to enhance advising, tutoring, and other academic and administrative services.* Actions: Group advisement sessions have been organized and held within the department during advising time; and graduate school talks have been conducted.

• Goal # 19: *Upgrade and maintain campus infrastructure according to ongoing needs assessment and sustainable practices.* Actions: Condition surveys of campus buildings will be conducted as a component of the land use planning and site location analysis courses; and a speaker and workshop series on sustainable development practices is planned for the spring 2008.

The GARP Department is particularly geared to support the goal of sustainable development practices. In support of President Maloney’s charge to develop a Sustainable Campus Plan, the department will focus on several events this year to bring green movement speakers and workshops to campus. Carsten Braun has proposed a new course, Climate Change, which will address the issues we face globally with the impacts of climate change on the environment, our building practices and life styles. The department will continue to develop action plans based on the goals and priorities of the strategic plan as they relate to accreditation of the Regional Planning Program through the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB). Our link with the MPA Program and the courses we plan to cross-register will also benefit our timetable for accreditation.

**APPENDIX**

Faculty Accomplishments

GIST Center Proposal

White Paper: Brazilian Project
FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ANTHONY BONACQUISTI

Courses Taught:

Fall

- GARP 0102, 3 sections; GARP0230 Geography of Europe

Spring

- GARP0102, 3 sections

Committee Work

- Served on the GARP search committee

MARIJOAN BULL

Spring Semester 2007/ Courses Taught:

GARP 101-004 World Regional Geography
GARP 101-005 World Regional Geography
GARP 219 Land Use and Natural Resource Planning
GARP 316 American Suburbanization

To further the application of principles learned in Land Use and Natural Resource Planning, case studies were developed and integrated into the course. The cases included: exploration of development pressures in Carver MA associated with cranberry operations, sand/gravel extraction, and a sole source aquifer; commercial corridor revitalization in Westport, MA; and impact assessment for alternative development scenarios in Swansea, MA.

Served on Search Committee Spring 2007.

Outside Activities


Recipient Special Recognition Award May 2007. Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District (SRPEDD). Given in recognition of exceptional work with lay persons on furthering sustainability at the local level.
Carsten Braun

Fall Semester 2006
(Assistant Professor, 1-year appointment)

**Teaching Responsibilities**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>GARP 0244</td>
<td>Introduction to GIS</td>
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**Outreach Activities**

- Braun, C., *Melting glaciers and "Global Warming"*. Presentation to 7th and 8th grade Middle School students, Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School, South Hadley, MA. (20 December 2006)
- Participated in the Western Massachusetts Environmental Summit at Westfield State College, organized by the WSC Environmental Center (Saturday, 02 December 2006).

**January 2007**

Research expedition to Mt. Kilimanjaro (Tanzania) in collaboration with colleagues from the Climate System Research Center at UMass Amherst (Raymond S. Bradley, Douglas R. Hardy) and collaborators from Austria (Prof. Georg Kaser, Univ. of Innsbruck) and New Zealand (Prof. Nicolas Cullen, Univ. of Otago).

http://www.geo.umass.edu/climate/kibo.html

**Scientific Objectives:**

- Service and maintenance of the UMass weather station on Kilimanjaro’s Northern Icefield (operational since 2000).
- Measurements of glacier mass balance and extent (horizontal and vertical) at several sites across the summit plateau.

**Spring Semester 2007**
(Assistant Professor, 1-year appointment)

**Teaching Responsibilities**

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<tr>
<td>GARP 0344</td>
<td>Advanced GIS</td>
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• Instructed GIS students over Spring Break in the usage of GPS receivers for trail mapping in Greenfield, MA.
• Presented a guest lecture in Prof. Karl Leiker’s Physical Geography class entitled "Glaciers and Climate Change" (03 May 2007).

Outreach Activities
• Participated in the “Pathways to Career” event at Westfield State College, organized by Priscilla Miller by presenting a lecture and discussion about weather, climate, and climate change (3 groups of Middle School Students, ~10 to 15 students in each group, ~50 minutes with each group).
• Participated in the Westfield River Watershed Symposium at Westfield State College, organized by the Westfield River Watershed Association (Michael Young) by acting as a discussion facilitator after a screening of “An Inconvenient Truth” (Saturday, 31 March 2007).

Other Activities
• Ran (unsuccessfully) for a seat on the curriculum committee (April 2007).
• Reviewed papers for the scientific journals “The Holocene” and “Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research”.

Plans for Summer 2007
• Update of the GARP department WWW site.
• Formulate a proposal to create a GIS Technology Center (GIST Center) at Westfield State College.
• Replacement of the old River server with a new system (in collaboration with IT).
• Research expedition (15 to 30 June 2007) to the Quelcaya Ice Cap (Peru) with colleagues from UMass Amherst (Raymond S. Bradley and Douglas R. Hardy) and The Ohio State University (Prof. Lonnie Thompson).
• Ongoing research project: Mass and energy balance of several small ice caps in the Canadian High Arctic.
• Ongoing research project: Mass balance investigations of the Ward Hunt Ice Rise and Ice Shelf, Ellesmere Island, Canada.
Courses Taught

Fall 2006
- GARP0105 Introduction to Community to Planning 38
- GARP0225 Legal Issues in Zoning and Planning 24
- GARP0350/ENVS Internships* 12
- GARP0399 Independent Study 2

Spring 2007
- GARP0105 Introduction to Community Planning 37
- GARP0391 Seminar in Regional and Environmental Planning 17
- GARP0350/ENVS Internships* 15
- GARP0399 Independent Study 3

*Internships: I supervised nine internships during the fall semester and seventeen during the spring. Seven students interned at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) in community development, transportation planning, and land use. Two students worked in the city engineer’s office in Westfield conducting GIS research/mapping. Interns worked in the city planning departments in Holyoke, Springfield, West Springfield, and Pittsfield. Other students did GIS internships at Prophesy Software Company in Bloomfield, Connecticut, Amherst Planning Department, Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, and the Town of West Springfield, Department of Public Works, Water Division. An intern is working in the Economic Development Office in downtown Westfield.

Environmental science interns were placed at Con-Test laboratories in East Longmeadow, Severn Trent Laboratories in Westfield, the Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee (WRWSAC) in Haydenville, and the Westfield River Highlands Program under the auspices of The Nature Conservancy in Chester.

Several interns have been placed in summer internship sites at the Southeast Regional Economic Planning and Development District (SERPDD) in Taunton, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRC) in Worcester, Washington, D.C., and the Fisheries and Hatcheries in Belchertown, MA.

Conferences/Publications:
- Conducted workshop, *Downtown Mixed-Use Zoning*, at the University of Barra Mansa, Barra Mansa, Brazil in July 2006.

Research and Outreach:
- Ongoing compilation of medical data for disease management program for Riverbend Medical Group, Agawam, MA.
• Continued talks for international contract with Brazilian engineers and planners in Barra Mansa Brazil for exchange program with WSC.
• Served on the Sustainability Committee for Northampton, MA, which is developing a community-wide sustainable plan for the community.

Student Research/Group Projects:
• Supervised student interns who conducted research for the Conservation Commission in West Springfield to update the Open Space Plan
• Coordinated student efforts to develop a land use inventory for the Town of West Springfield
• Supervised student who designed a survey for the West Springfield Open Space Plan

Grants:
• Developed grant proposal, *Westfield State College Geographic Information Systems Brazilian Mapping Project*, in collaboration with Jeanne Julian and the president’s office, which was submitted to Patton Boggs in Washington, DC
• Collaborated with planners from the Development of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in Boston to initiate Phase Two of the I$^3$ grant, *Center for Community Planning*. Phase two will involve the creation of a pilot program to evaluate the online course, maCDBG.com, which I designed through WebCt for the initial I$^3$ grant in 2005.

Service to the College:
• Chair, GARP Department
• Co-chair with Joan Rasool, Strategic Planning Committee
• Served on the GARP search committee

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**DR. KARL K. LEIKER**

Courses taught

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<td>Wednesday lab</td>
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<td>GARP 331  Severe Weather</td>
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<td>DCGE  GARP 102, Physical Geography Lecture and Lab</td>
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</tbody>
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Spring 2007

GARP 102  Physical Geography Lecture and Three Lab Sections 51
  Monday lab 17
  Tuesday lab 18
  Wednesday lab 16

GARP 230  Intro to Meteorology 39

Research


Other Academic Activities

  Continued as a member of the Western Massachusetts team for the American Meteorological Societies distance education program: Datastreme, Water in the Environment Systems (WES). This program offers weather related courses (via SUNY Brockport) to active elementary, middle school and high school teachers in the Western Massachusetts and N. Connecticut area

  Served as a member of the SC faculty promotions committee, Spring, 2007

  Served as a member of the diversity committee on faculty hiring, 2006 - 2007

  Served on the GARP Department faculty search committee.

2006-2007: END OF THE YEAR REPORT
DR. MIRELA I. NEWMAN

Assistant Professor, Geography and Regional Planning

TEACHING & ADVISING GARP MAJORS

Fall 2006 Teaching 4 courses + Advising GARP Majors
GARP 0101: World Regional Geography; GARP 0216: Urban Geography/Urban Analysis
GARP 0210-01: Cultural Geography; GARP 0210-02: Cultural Geography
**Spring 2007 Teaching 4 courses & Advising GARP Majors**
GARP 0101: World Regional Geography; GARP 0218” Recreation & Tourism Geography *new prep*
GARP 0210-01: Cultural Geography; GARP 0210-02: Cultural Geography

**TEACHING AWARD 2005-2006**

Nominated for the “JOHN F. NEVINS OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD FOR 2006” for contributions to Westfield State College’s academic programs and commitment to the Division of Graduate and Continuing Education and for providing “an exciting learning experience for our students”

**PUBLICATIONS**

**PUBLISHED 1 BOOK REVIEW**


**1 BOOK MANUSCRIPT ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION** by Lexington Publishing Company who (re) offered me a publication contract/agreement currently reviewing / considering

Newman, Mirela “Dutch Green Urbanism: Planned Urban Development and Form in Almere New City, the Netherlands,” (432 pages) University of Massachusetts, Amherst and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan (UMI Number: 3078709)

**PUBLISHED 4 ABSTRACTS**


DR. MIRELA I. NEWMAN

PAPER/ORAL PRESENTATIONS

AT INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL & REGIONAL CONFERENCES

Newman, Mirela (January 2007) “Urban Metamorphosis: Spatial and Morphological Changes in Almere New City, the Netherlands” at the 5th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities. Honolulu, Hawaii, January 12-15, 2007 (my paper was peer-reviewed and accepted for oral presentation)


Dr. MIRELA I. NEWMAN

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Membership in International Organizations
• International Association Society & Natural Resources (IASNR). 2004 - present
• International Seminar of Urban Form (ISUF) and of Urban Morphology Groups. 2003 – present
• Association of Young European Geographers (AEGEA). 1991-1997
• Romanian Geographic Society “George Valsan.” 1994-1997

Membership in National Organizations
o Regional Planning Specialty Group (AAG). 2000 - present
o European Specialty Group (AAG). 1999 - present.
o Regional Planning Group (AAG). 2001 - present.

- **NEW** American Planning Association (APA). Fall 2006 – present
- **NEW** Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP). Fall 2006-present

**Membership in Regional & Local Organizations**
- New England & St. Lawrence Valley Geographical Society (NESTVAL). 2001 - present
- **Western Massachusetts Geographic Center**, Westfield State College Teacher Outreach Program. Board Member 2003 – present
- Westfield River Watershed Association – Board member
- **Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi**, Chapter at the University of Massachusetts. 1999-2001
- Environmental Planning Club, at Westfield State College, Westfield, Ma. 2003-present