Focus North Texas (#FNT2019) is a regional training and continuing education event for city planning–related topics. It’s a one–day planning symposium, and in 2019, the Midwest Texas Section of the APA and the North Central Texas Section of the APA will combine forces to put on this affordable and regional training program together.

Planned and organized by a group of your peers and colleagues, the lineup of this year’s FNT is very exciting. Anne Ricker and Bill Cunningham are our Keynote Lunch speakers, and they will be discussing how to plan in a market–based reality, making plans and policies that are truly integrated into all elements of the city. New this year, we will also have an Opening Plenary panel discussing progressive mobility and its importance to North Texas. Last, but certainly not least, to round out our program will be four tracks of breakout sessions to choose from!

FNT2019 is centrally located at a new venue for us, the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas. It has great access, including being within walking distance to a DART Rail station! There are hotels nearby if you’d like to stay in one, and the venue can accommodate our growing group of planners and planning–types.

REGISTER TODAY!

DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2019
TIME: 8:30 AM – 5 PM
(NETWORKING HAPPY HOUR TO FOLLOW)
STUDENT RATE: $50
REGISTER ON THE #FNT2019 WEBSITE
UPCOMING EVENTS
DFW PLANNING LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, & NETWORKING EVENTS

Event: CAPPA STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS: SPRING 19 KICK-OFF SOCIAL
Date: January 25, 2019
Host: SPA, WTS, CSC
Location: Grease Monkey, 200 N Mesquite St Arlington, TX
Time: 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Details

Event: NACTO Design Guide Training: Designing Streets for Transit
Date: January 29, 2019
Location: J. Erik Jonsson Central Public Library Dallas, TX
Register

Event: Organization 101
Date: January 29, 2019
Host: C-TEED Student Council
Location: CAPPA Room 404
Time: 5:45 pm – 6:45 pm
Details

TREC Dallas Community Driven Growth: A Citywide Conversation
Date: February 2, 2019 at
Time: 9:00 AM – 1:30 PM
Location: 2200 N Pearl St Dallas, Texas 75201
Register

Event: CAPPA All Majors Career Fair
Date: February 20, 2019
Host: CAPPA Student Organizations
Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Details

COMPETITIONS

Better Block – Build a Better Bus Stop Competition
Register by February 4, 2019
Details

iOme Challenge Retirement Plans Scholarships
Apply by April 20, 2019
Details

ARTBA’s Student Transportation Video Contest
Apply by August 29, 2019
Details

Interested in participating in a competition? Sign up to join a team in this Doodle Poll!
2019 FUTURE CITY COMPETITION
CAPPA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Support the 2019 Future City Competition to help teach young students about planning, architecture, and engineering fundamentals!

The Future City Competition – sponsored by DiscoverE (National Engineers Week) - inspires young students about cities by challenging them to solve the real-world problems associated with building a livable city of the future. This year’s theme is “Powering the Future.” More than 50 schools are working hard on their city concepts and their solutions for resilient power grids. Future City Competition North Texas will be hosting its annual regional competition Saturday, January 26, 2019, 8 am – 5 pm at the University of Texas at Arlington. The SPA and the American Planning Association Texas Chapter, Midwest Section are looking for volunteers to help facilitate the conference’s events, judge projects, and host a Lego activity aimed at teaching students about planning and development strategies.

For more details or to sign up to volunteer, email Kelsey Poole at SPA.CAPPA@gmail.com

PLANNING IN THE MEDIA
PLANNING RELATED ARTICLES, OP-EDS, AND PODCASTS

Media Outlet: New York Times
Topic: Climate Change
Title: Our Crime Against the Planet, and Ourselves
Authors: Natasha Lennard & Dr. Adrian Parr
Read

Media Outlet: The Dirt
Topic: Landuse / Technology
Title: The Big Impact of Small Cell Infrastructure
Author: Andrew Wright
Read

Media Outlet: Center for Active Design
Topic: Placemaking and Public Health
Title: 4 Insights on Public Space and Health Equity
Read

Media Outlet: Planetizen
Topic: Policy
Title: Election 2018 Results: Local and State Land Use, Transportation, Housing, and Infrastructure
Author: James Brasuell
Read
This past October, the Student Planning Association joined planners from across Texas at the 2018 American Planning Association – Texas Chapter state conference in Galveston, Texas. In addition to attending the conference, the SPA participated in the 2018 Legacy Project. The Legacy Project, having begun in 2015 at the APA Texas Chapter conference as a hands-on community planning effort to benefit the host community for the foreseeable future, focused this year on Hitchcock, TX, in an effort to support Texas Target Communities in developing a Comprehensive Plan that promotes community resiliency in the face of outside growth and development as well as its long-term recovery from Hurricane Harvey.

While the Legacy Project is a competition with awards presented to the winning university, this year’s participants (from multiple universities and planning schools throughout the state) chose to collaborate with one another within the confines of the competition, not only with shared information gathering, but also in choosing projects that focus on different aspects of community resiliency within the city; this collaboration intends to promote not only goodwill among the universities but also a larger and more comprehensive series of planning projects for the City of Hitchcock that covers more of the city’s needs for its Comprehensive Plan.

Hitchcock has a higher than typical unemployment rate, a lower than typical median household income, and a workforce that mostly goes outside of the city for employment; combined with its need for restructuring its infrastructure away from its 1% annual chance flooding zones and its lower than typical median housing value, Hitchcock needs a strong and all-encompassing Comprehensive Plan as it looks to grow in population by 50% by the year 2040.
Toward this end, each Planning Student Organization provided a written proposal and a visual element to convey concepts and strategies for topics that range through Housing, Community Facilities, Transportation, Historic Preservation, Coastal Resilience, Food Desert Remediation, and Town Beautification. This competition was also accompanied by the CHARM workshop, in which the Community Health And Resource Management (CHARM) mapping application was used to host a collaborative community mapping activity that promoted dialogue between community stakeholders.

The CHARM Workshop offered an additional cooperative dimension to the Legacy Project by inviting planning student teams and stakeholders from Hitchcock to work together to create land use maps for the City of Hitchcock’s planning department. This endeavor looked to provide creative and innovative solutions from across the state in a unified supporting role for this community. The SPA Legacy project team, which included Samantha Bradley (MCRP), Catherine Osborn (MCRP), Jaric Jones (MCRP), Kelsey Poole (MCRP), and James Stratton (Real Estate Finance) addressed the City of Hitchcock’s economic and social needs by redeveloping the publicly owned land in Hitchcock’s downtown district into a “Mixed-Use Community Wellness District.” Specifically, the SPA created a plan that established a new downtown district, relocated the City Hall to the new downtown district, and transformed the City Hall into a mixed-use community center and public park.

The plan also included green infrastructure design features and community spaces, such as a permeable skatepark, to help promote the city’s environmental and social sustainability. To learn more about the SPA’s proposal for the City of Hitchcock click the link to review the report online.

The SPA would like to thank all the PSO teams (UT–Arlington, UT–San Antonio, Texas Southern University, and Texas A&M University) for participating in the Legacy Project and congratulate Texas Southern University for being awarded the best proposal. The SPA would also like to thank Texas Target Communities for leading this project, CHARM for hosting our mapping experience, and the APATX for including the state PSOs on the APATX board and at the state conference.
APA 2019 Legislative Priorities

The New Year brings a new Congress, and with it, a renewed opportunity to articulate to elected officials and planners APA’s top policy priorities for the year ahead. This year’s slate of priorities touches upon many of the issues students care deeply about. The priorities were prepared by APA’s Legislative and Policy Committee and adopted by APA’s Board of Directors. Watch for opportunities to share and advance these priorities with elected officials in the weeks and months ahead at planning.org/policy.

2019 National Planning Conference
Contact Kelsey Poole @ SPA.CAPPA@gmail.com to coordinate travel logistics.
- April 12 – 16, 2019
- San Francisco
- Student Rate: $125 (Deadline 2/13/19)
- Register

Planning Magazine
Use your APA login and password to read a special issue on San Francisco! 2019 National Planning Conference.
- Login

AICP Candidate Pilot Program
Get a head start on your AICP certification by participating in the Candidate Pilot Program. Through this great opportunity, you no longer have to gain professional experience before taking the exam. Instead, take it when you’re just out of school, when the knowledge is fresh. Once you’ve passed the exam, you become an AICP Candidate and can continue chipping away at the professional experience required to become certified.
- Learn More

New Year’s Message from the TXAPA President

Doug McDonald, the President of the APA, Texas Chapter, welcomed in 2019 by highlighting all that the APATX’ accomplished in 2018. Most notably, the APA, Texas Chapter was awarded the Karen B. Smith Overall Chapter Achievement Award, given by the Chapter President’s Council. Read Mr. McDonald’s New Year’s note to learn all the ways in which the APATX made Texas an amazing place to live and work in 2018!
Open SPA Board Positions

The SPA is looking to invite two outgoing students to join the SPA Board as the VP of Community Development and the VP of Communications. Taking on a leadership position during your undergraduate or graduate studies ensures a pathway to professional excellence. The SPA aims to shape its Board members’ academic and professional careers by helping them develop skills, such as networking, fundraising, public speaking, event planning, and digital marketing, that the DFW planning community is looking for in not only an employee but in regional leadership.

Take the next step in your studies and career by joining the SPA Board today!

If interested, please review the below position responsibilities and requirements. Please email Kelsey Poole at SPA.CAPPA@mgail.com. All inquiries should include the following:

- Email Title: SPA Board Position – Insert Desired Position
- Name
- Major
- Employment Status
- Expected Graduation Date

VP of Community Development

The VP of Community Development (VCD) will be responsible for researching, coordinating, planning and promoting all SPA, CAPPA, and UTA related events and programing.

- Work with the VP of Regional Programming (VRP) and the President to establish a calendar of on and off campus opportunities
- Organize and facilitate yearly elections and membership recruitment for the SPA
- Coordinate with CAPPA groups to promote CAPPA and UTA events, competitions, conferences, fundraising etc.
- Serve as the representative for the annual CAPPA Career Fair to help represent planning students and companies in the DFW area.
- The VCD of the SPA must be enrolled in a UTA full-time undergraduate or graduate program.
- 12-month term

VP of Communications

The VP of Communications (VPC) will be in charge of managing and coordinating all internal and external SPA, APA, CAPPA and UTA related marketing. In partnership with the SPA Board, CAPPA, and the APA, Texas Chapter, the VPC will help to promote the vision and mission of the SPA through online communications, the SPA newsletter, and the CAPPA website. Core responsibilities include:

- Work with SPA Board to collect and create content for the SPA social media pages
- Support and promote SPA, APA, CAPPA, and regional planning related pages and activities online
- Create and organize content for the SPA newsletter (i.e. planning related events, articles, competitions, job opportunities), reach out to contributing authors (i.e. CAPPA Students), edit and publish the SPA newsletter by sending it to the SPA listserv and APA Texas Chapter Sections
- Update and maintain roster of SPA members on the social media platforms and SPA Mavs group.
- The VPC of the SPA must be enrolled in a UTA full-time undergraduate or graduate program.
- 12-month term