# Alaska Planning Yournal

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### Alaska Chapter Elections

The Alaska Chapter finally held elections for the chapter Board of Directors positions. The Board of Directors consists of a President, a Vice President, a Secretary/Treasurer, a Professional Development Officer, three regional Vice Presidents, a Planning Commissioner Representative, and the Immediate Past President. Your current board members are:

- •The President is *John McPherson, AICP*. John can be reached by email at: John.McPherson@hdrinc.com.
- •The Immediate Past President is *Lance Wilber, AICP*. Lance can be reached at: wilberlr@muni.org.
- •The Vice President is *Mitzi Barker, AICP*. Mitzi can be reached at <a href="mailto:mbarker@ruralcap.com">mbarker@ruralcap.com</a>.
- •The Secretary/Treasurer is *Angela Chambers*, *AICP*. Angela can be reached by email at: ChambersAC@muni.org.
- •The Professional Development Officer for the chapter is open until filled.

In the mean time you can direct questions to *John McPherson, AICP* at:

John.McPherson@hdrinc.com

- •The Northern Region Vice President is *Earl Finkler*. Earl can be reached by email at: finklers@barrow.com.
- The Southcentral Region Vice President is *Caren Mathis, AICP*. Caren can be reached at: caren.mathis@norecon.com.
- •The Southeast Region Vice President is **Barbara Sheinberg**, **AICP**. Barbara can be reached by email at: <a href="mailto:bsheinberg@gci.net">bsheinberg@gci.net</a>.
- •Toni Jones, a planning commissioner with the Municipality of Anchorage, has agreed to be the Planning Commissioner representative. Toni will be seated at the next regular board meeting.

If you are interested in being more active in the chapter contact any board member. The newly elected board is looking forward to reinvigorating the chapter and looks forward to your participation.

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#### Mark your calendars:

Western Planner 2004 Conference in Missoula, Montana Tuesday, August 3 through Friday, August 6, 2004 Marking the 25th Anniversary of The Western Planner

Theme: Silver Celebration on the Clark Fork

For more information see their website: http://www.westernplanner.org/2004conf.htm

Alaska Planning Association Board Retreat Saturday, September 18, 2004 in Anchorage, Alaska E-mail your regional representative with ideas for the association

Alaska Municipal League

2004 AML/ACoM Local Government Conference Week in Fairbanks, Alaska Sunday, November 07 through Friday, November 12, 2004 For more information see their website: http://www.akml.org

AICP Exam

Administered on-line Monday, November 8 through Saturday November 20, 2004.



Send your articles, comments, suggestions, or letters to the editor to Suzanne Taylor.

e-mail: smtaylor@ascg.com Or write to: Suzanne Taylor ASCG Incorporated 3900 C Street, Suite 501 Anchorage, AK 99503

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# Regional Reports

### Central



Caren L. Mathis, AICP Central Region Vice President

From the Municipality of Anchorage to the City of Unalaska, the planning challenges and opportunities are many and diverse in the Chapter's Central Region. There is a diversity of urban and rural planning activities in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors in the Central Region. Though distance and air fares can isolate community planners in the region, this section of the newsletter can serve as a forum to showcase planning initiatives and

The intersection of comprehensive community planning and economic development seems increasingly important. The Alaska Federation of Natives and World Bank sponsored a state-wide, rural development forum June 28 and 29 in Anchorage entitled "Knowledge Based Economic Development". One of the themes was the need for community driven decision making that is supported on a regional economic basis. By 2005, the Denali Commission, one of the major funders of infrastructure development in rural Alaska, will require communities to have a community plans in place prior to receiving funding for projects. This is a busy and exciting time to be a planner in Alaska.

Here is just a sampler of planning activities in the Central Region. In Anchorage the implementation of its Anchorage 2020 comprehensive plan is underway through the rewrite of the Municipality's land use regulations. You can read more about this in Treasurer Angela Chambers' article in this newsletter. Other projects include major improvements at Ted Stevens International Airport, resort development in Girdwood, transportation improvements, and traffic snarls. Innovative developments such as Creekside Town Center and the Mountain View Arts Cultural District present opportunities for leveraging private investment through public resources.

The Mat-Su Borough has been in the process of updating its core area plan and working with communities on an area-wide basis to update community plans so they are consistent with local values. Land use quidelines remain controversial.



Homer, Alaska



Kodiak Island Borough, the Bristol Bay Borough, Dillingham Census Area, Lake and Peninsula Borough, Aleutians East Borough, and Aleutians West Census Area- there are a range of projects as diverse as the region. SWAMC completed an economic geography study to define regional interdependencies and describe how the regional economy of southwest Alaska functions in relation to Southcentral and the rest of the state. The study found that southwest Alaska generated over \$1.1 billion in purchases and labor income from businesses in Southcentral, and other parts of the State and U.S. According to the study, the total economic effects (eg multiplier effect) of Southwest Alaska of purchases and labor income in Southcentral and other regions totaled \$3.25 billion. (See SWAMC website for

On the Kenai there are many

comprehensive land use and transportation

planning activities. On a local level, Homer

In Southwest Alaska- an area that includes

has grappled with annexation issues and

design standards for "big box" stores.

The economic relationships between urban and rural Alaska area are important for planners to understand. The Bristol Bay region which is grappling with the community impacts of restructuring the salmon fishery is embarking on a village driven, regionally supported planning effort through its Economic Development District, boroughs, and Alaska Native associations.

more information on the economic

This is just an overview of planning activities in the Central Region. If you would like to write about a specific planning project or initiative, please email Central Region V.P. or any board member. You can submit ideas, comments, or contribute articles to the editor or your Central Region V.P. Caren L. Mathis, AICP; Caren.Mathis@norecon.com.



Fishing tender, Bristol Bay

Planned Creekside

Town Center from

# Regional Reports Northern

#### Southeast



Barbara Sheinberg, AICP, Southeast Region Vice President



**Beautiful Southeast** Alaska

Hello! I am Barbara Sheinberg, AICP, pleased to be your new Southeast Region vice-president. I thought I'd tell you a little about myself, and ask for your help and ideas! I am principal and senior planner for my two-person community planning firm in Juneau, imaginatively named...Sheinberg Associates! I started the business in 1989, and before that was a planner for the Alaska Coastal Management Program and a planner for the Municipality of Anchorage in the mid-1980s. And WAY back when, (1980) I came to Alaska as a young geologist prospecting for gold when it was \$800 oz. Everybody and their brother was cruising Alaska at that time mapping and sampling thorough the Brooks and Alaska Ranges and 'corporate camping' as we helped Native Corporations make ANCSA land selections. What a deal that was! Eventually I went back to grad school at UAA and had the privilege of studying with geologist and pioneering planner up here, Lydia Selkregg. All the good projects I've been lucky enough to be involved with must be credited to her inspiration!

As SE Region VP, I want to help get more communication going among planners, architects and economic development folks in the region – I see lots of collaboration and synergy among these fields. I think we would all benefit from knowing more about what each other is doing in Southeast communities. I hope to pull together a quarterly email newsletter highlighting a project that one of us is working on, or perhaps a challenge your community is facing - what's going well, what isn't and why? I'd love to see some type of an annual award for the best public sector and private sector project in the region with some PR for the awardee by the local news media. These are just a few of the ideas I have. I recently sent out an initial email to planners and others in the Southeast Alaska region to establish an email newsletter/contact list. If I missed you, please email me so you can be added. Cheers! You can reach me at bsheinberg@gci.net or (907) 586-3141.



Northern APA representative Earl Finkler in Barrow, with his wife Chris and Nuna, who boards with Earl and Chris from time to time



Green Bay Packer fan Earl Finkler shares the latest Packer stories with local Greenland Husky Nuna



First North Slope Borough Mayor, the late Eben Hopson

Greetings from the Top of the World! It has been a busy summer on the North Slope, with 24-hour daylight in Barrow until August 2. Also busy throughout the North, including numerous wildfires.

I recently interviewed a BLM official from Fairbanks about the schedule of meetings on the North Slope and other parts of Alaska on the EIS for oil exploration in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. He missed our first scheduled phone interview because he was called out on one of the Interior fires. Then, a few days later, when we did connect, there was another area of critical concern -a large and rapidly spreading wildfire edging close to the small village of

Another sign of a busy summer --- BLM said the hearings scheduled for early July in Atgasuk, Nuigsut, Barrow and Anaktuvuk Pass were being delayed at the request of the North Slope Borough. Borough Mayor George Ahmaogak noted that he and a number of local officials, including wildlife scientists, were going to an important International Whaling Commission meeting

As its budget shrinks and jobs are reduced, the borough has been reaching out to other local governments including the Northwest Arctic Borough, to explore common interests and cooperation. On June 22, the combined North Slope and Northwest Arctic Borough Assemblies met together in Barrow, part of an ongoing series of such joint meetings. According to Northwest Arctic Mayor Ross Schaeffer, the joint priorities include healthier communities, workforce development and ways to reduce the high cost of living.

This reminds me of the first year I worked for the North Slope Borough in planning ---back in 1977. At that time the borough was still in its infancy, and just starting to develop basic infrastructure in Barrow and the villages. Yet, the late Mayor Eben Hopson was also looking outward, as he and the borough hosted the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference ---including Canada, Greenland and people from other northern areas.

Continued on page 4

#### Northern Report, continued



Arlene Thomas, right, at Nuiqsut public meeting on the NSB Comprehensive Transportation Plan A good lesson there ---always keep an eye on the bigger picture, even when things get tight locally.

Comings and Goings:

Arlene Thomas, who had worked as a Community Planner for the North Slope Borough Planning Department in Barrow for eight years, has moved to Anchorage with her husband Rolland, and is now working there for ASCG Incorporated. She will be working in village and governmental liaison, and serve as a community meeting coordinator and cultural advisor to the technical staff. ASCG noted that Arlene was born in Barrow and is the daughter of the late Charlie and Mary Edwardsen.

Have a nice summer everyone!

#### Congratulations



"

Mitzi is best known for her assistance to tribes throughout Alaska. She was responsible for brokering an unprecedented partnership among state, federal, tribal, private and non-profit organizations to acquire the necessary funding to rehabilitate every home on Diomede Island, AK. Mitzi was also an instrumental leader in helping APA develop policy quides on Housing and Homelessness.

"

- FAICP Induction Speech

#### Congratulations to Mitzi Barker, FAICP

The American Institute of Certified Planners, the professional institute of the American Planning Association, officially inducted Mitzi Barker, into the College of Fellows on April 24, 2004 at the APA National Planning Conference in Washington, D.C. According to the APA web site

(http://www.planning.org/faicp/faicp.htm), election to Fellow in AICP is one of the highest honors that the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) bestows upon a member. This honor is a recognition of the achievements of the planner as an individual, elevating the Fellow before the public and the profession as a model planner who has made significant contributions to planning and society. Fellowship is granted to planners who have been members of AICP and have achieved excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, public/community service, and leadership.

Mitzi was also recently elected to the National APA Board of Directors in the position of Director At-Large. Mitzi is Director of Rural Housing & Planning for the Rural Alaska Community Action Program. Based in Anchorage, she manages the agency's housing rehabilitation and weatherization programs, and rural community planning assistance initiative. She served two terms as President of the Alaska Chapter of APA, vice-chair of the Housing & Community Development Division, and member of the Legislative and Policy Committee, and is the principal author of APA's policy guides on Homelessness and Housing.

#### MOA updates land use regulations

Submitted by Angela Chambers, AICP APA Secretary/Treasurer



Anchorage, Alaska

2020 – Anchorage Bowl Comprehensive Plan, the Municipality of Anchorage, Planning Department has hired Clarion Associates, a consulting firm from Denver, Colorado, to write a new land use code of regulations. The purpose of the code rewrite is to modernize Anchorage's land use regulations to include development techniques and design standards; to make the code more useable and easier to understand; and to implement recently adopted plans and policies.

As part of the implementation of **Anchorage** 

Throughout the project, the consultants will draw on comments and direction that has been received from the Municipal Assembly, Planning & Zoning Commission, Title 21 Citizens Advisory Committee, key stakeholders, municipal staff, and the general public. The overall project, started in spring 2002, is expected to be completed in 2005, including the review and approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission, and adoption by the Municipal Assembly.

The code rewrite is separated into three separate modules. Public comments have been received on the first two modules, and module #3 is currently out for review. A complete revised draft of the entire code will be available for public review in early 2005. All three modules can be located on the Planning Department's web site, located at www.muni.org/planning.

The Anchorage Citizen's Coalition is facilitating small work group meetings to review and discuss Module 3 content. Each of the groups will meet based on the schedule below. For more information, feel free to contact Julie Jonas, the Outreach Coordinator, at <a href="mailto:julieacc@alaska.net">julieacc@alaska.net</a>, or go to the Citizen's Coalition website at <a href="https://www.accalaska.org">www.accalaska.org</a>. ACC Meeting Schedule:

July 28, 29 (W & Th)

Aug 11, 12

Aug 25, 26

Sept 8, 9

All ACC meetings will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in City Hall. Citizens should pick a Wednesday or Thursday night meeting and try to attend the series of four meetings held on the night they choose.

Comments on Module 3 are due to the Planning Department by September 10, 2004.

More information about the Municipality of Anchorage planning efforts can be found at their website <a href="https://www.muni.org/planning">www.muni.org/planning</a> or contact MOA Planning

at 343-7921

### Alaska Chapter member on APA National Board



Mitzi Barker, FAICP Director, Rural Housing & Planning, RurAL CAP PO Box 200908 Anchorage, AK 99520 Ph: 907-279-2511 e-mail: mbarker@ruralcap.com The APA elections this spring marked a westward shift in the geographic composition of the APA Board of Directors. Of the thirteen elected directors, eight are from Western states (if Texas is counted as Western). For those of us who have felt more than a bit detached from our national organization's east-coast, urbancentric orientation, I hope that this will mean an increased recognition of and sensitivity to the challenges all of us in the West, and especially in Alaska, face in our day-to-day planning practice.

I want to thank you for the chapter's overwhelming vote of confidence. I've represented Alaska at the national level for several years, serving on the Chapter Presidents' Council, and as a member of the Legislative and Policy Committee, where I've been effective in bringing our unique perspective to the table, and helped to

influence APA programs and policy. Thank you for taking time to vote, and for supporting my candidacy for the APA Board.

Now, I want to ask you again for your support. To be your voice on the APA Board, I need to hear your voice. I encourage you to write or call me with your ideas, concerns, and needs. Nothing is too trivial or too large! We can either choose to pay our dues and carp about what we aren't getting in return, or we can become part of the solution. I hope you will choose the latter.

Jot down the contact info on the left and watch this space for regular updates on what's happening on the national APA scene and what it means to us who live and work on the last frontier....

### Northern Building Design Anthology

Submitted by Caren Mathis, AICP Central Region Vice President An anthology of articles developed from lectures for the Northern Design Course at the University of Alaska Anchorage (1995-2003) was published May 2004. The anthology, titled Northern Building Design, is a technical guide for the planning, programming, design and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure in northern climates. The goal of Northern Building **Design** is to assist community planners, architects, landscape architects, engineers, developers, contractors and owners of facilities in achieving sustainable buildings and infrastructure that meet the unique needs of northern inhabitants. *Northern* Building Design includes a chapter on Planning for Northern Communities, authored by APA, Alaska members Jon Isaacs and Caren L. Mathis, AICP.

Northern Building Design was funded through a grant from the Denali Commission and AIA Alaska, American Institute of Architects, from revenues generated through teaching the Northern Design Course at the University of Alaska Anchorage. APA has participated on a volunteer basis on the teaching team of the Northern Design Course since the course started in 1997.



Traditional structure at the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage

The Northern Design course is taught by a team of architects, planners, landscape architects, and engineers. The Northern Design Course is endorsed by the Alaska State Board of Examiners for professional licensing as an alternate means of complying with the "arctic engineering" requirement. In addition to the chapter on *Planning for Northern Communities* the anthology of

Northern Communities, the anthology of lectures Northern Building Design includes chapters addressing: determinants for Northern design, climate and geographic design factors in the North, site development and planning-landscape architecture, arctic utilities, architectural design-exterior issues, interior architecture, and building technology-geotechnical, foundations, seismic, superstructure; exterior enclosure, roofing, mechanical issues, electrical issues, building codes, and constructability. The anthology concludes with a chapter on sustainability.

Copies of *Northern Building Design* are available through the University of Alaska bookstore or Cook Inlet Book Company. APA members interested in the Northern Design Course can contact Caren Mathis at Caren.Mathis@norecon.com or at 272-6412.

# New to the APA: Indigenous Planning Division



Professor Ted Jojola, University of New Mexico, School of Architecture and Planning

The American Planning Association recently welcomed a new division to its ranks: the Indigenous Planning (IP) Division. The creation of the Indigenous Planning Division serves to identify and link planning practitioners that work among tribal nations and indigenous communities. This division will serve as a forum for sharing and showcasing the planning efforts of indigenous practitioners, especially those that advocate for the use of cultural values in their approaches to community development.

In spite of social and political forces that have attempted to limit their inherent powers of self-government, indigenous communities have managed—in various ways—to maintain their own cultural identities. With the advent of the 1975 Indian Self-Determination Act, tribes assumed their rightful role of contracting their own education, health, social and economic development services. Coupled with the

emergence of Indian casino gaming and the impacts of urban encroachment onto tribal lands, planning issues have become even more complex and varied.

Given this emerging context, there is a need to present and share solutions that address the complex interplay of public policy and indigenous sovereignty. The IP division will have an important role to play in informing the profession about the complex set of issues, laws and regulations that apply to indigenous communities.

For Alaskan planners, the IP division can be a resource for new planning approaches to use in this state, home to over 200 Federally-Recognized Native tribes. Questions about the IP division can be directed to the Division Director, Ted Jojola, PhD, Director of the Community and Regional Planning Program, University of New Mexico, at tjojola@unm.edu.

### James & Elsie Molan Center: An exciting new public facility

Carol Rushmore Economic Development Director City of Wrangell P.O. Box 531 Wrangell, AK 99929 907-874-2381 fax 907-874-3952

Please check out our website at www.wrangell.com

Wrangell, Alaska celebrated the grand opening of the long awaited James and Elsie Nolan Center on July 1, 2004. It was more than a celebration of a new museum and civic center. It was a celebration of hard work, tenacity, determination and focused planning. The community traveled a long road over generations to get to this day.

Elsie Sylvester Nolan grew up on Wrangell in the early 1900s. She was a forward-thinking woman, a business woman owning the local sandwich shop and fountain, civic oriented and a very hard worker. After she married Jim Nolan, they became full business partners in the shop adding a drugstore component. After serving the community in numerous civic positions, Jim Nolan joined the Territorial Legislature as a Representative in 1947. He was elected State Senator in 1951. He was the first member of the Alaska Legislature to serve 20 consecutive years. It is because of James and Elsie Nolan, and their gift to the community, that the dream of a new museum and a civic center facility became reality.

As far back as 1898, local businessmen and women pledged money and time to build a new Wrangell Museum. A generation later,



James and Elsie Nolan Center, Wrangell, Alaska

civic groups were still discussing and planning for the museum and preservation of totems (Wrangell Sentinel, 1916). Wrangell is a small community that has suffered the boom-and-bust cycles of gold mining, seafood processing and timber harvesting. Initial efforts to actually raise the funds necessary to fulfill the dream were not successful. The collection of the Historical Society was housed over the years in various locations. It was a bequest from the estate of Senator James Nolan in the early 1990s that finally provided the seed money and the incentive to again seriously seek development of a museum.

It became a partnership between the Wrangell Historical Society, volunteers, businesses, and City Government to plan for, design and construct a facility to house Wrangell's history. The many challenges included location, facility components, and community commitment.

Wrangell, currently at a population of just over 2100, has lost 600 residents since mid-1995 and 20% of its payroll earning.

Continued on page 7

#### Nolan Center, continued



Tlingit artifact

The decline of the timber industry and loss of the primary employer in 1994 has dramatically impacted the economic health of the community. However the community prides itself on being able to pull together during tough times, and even though opinions were diverse, the project to construct a museum, with commitment from the Nolan Estate, began to move forward and gain momentum. The project was spearheaded by the Friends of the Wrangell Museum, with support from the City Council and administration.

Everyone recognized the need to carefully plan for the facility - identifying site alternatives, analyzing various possible components, and assessing the economic impacts and benefits to the community. Concern about the cost of maintaining the facility was one of the greatest concerns of the community. As the economy suffered, spending ability of the community declined and there were fears about increased taxes to pay for the maintenance and operations of the facility. Concern about the size of the facility, and site location on the waterfront were also primary arguments against the facility because the City had limited land available to commit. Waterfront land where the facility is located is limited and competing uses for the land potentially existed. Combining convention and meeting space with the museum was controversial and arguably either a drain on the facility or a revenue generator. Marketing strategies and organizational overlaps and roles had to be defined. Communication was never adequate. In retrospect, staff and project participants identified communication channels and opportunities that could have



Wrangell marina

been better; however, in a small community, where the rumor mill is a daily event, facts and misinformation are hard to distinguish.

Ultimately with the dissemination of information, the willingness of the Council and project participants to address concerns and continue seeking and providing answers to questions, and with community leaders standing firm in their decisions, the Nolan Center was constructed.

The Nolan Center now has become the focal point of the downtown center. Where the community's previous museum was more a storehouse of local artifacts, the new museum provides an interactive walk through one of the oldest communities in Alaska and the only one to be ruled under four nations and three flags; Tlingit, Russian, British and American. It has instilled a sense of pride in the residents of all ages. The convention and meeting space provides a new economic opportunity for the community. For the first time, the community has a Visitor Center for business services and interpretive information. Even many of the previous detractors to the project admit that the facility is an impressive addition.

There are many challenges ahead for the facility and the community. The planning has not stopped. As always, there are limited resources of staff and money, but the ideas for opportunities are flowing and the community is embracing the facility. Business leaders and others are now saying we need to revitalize the downtown area, develop visitor-friendly places and create linkages and corridors to the Nolan Center. Success spurs opportunities, attitudes and ideas!



James Nolan

### Your input is wanted!

This newsletter is only as useful as the Alaska Planning Association members make it. If you are working on an interesting planning project and would like to share, please send your article and photos to the editor at <a href="mailto:smtaylor@ascg.com">smtaylor@ascg.com</a> If you have ideas for articles or features. We want to hear from you. If you have planning events you would like mentioned in our calendar section, send the information. This is your journal. Let's make it work for you.

### National Conference



This year's APA national conference was in Washington, DC. The photo at the left is of Tian Tian, one of two pandas at the National Zoo.

Plan on attending next year's conference in San Francisco for an exciting time of learning, networking, making new friends, and renewing old acquaintances.

For more information about the national conference visit

www.planning.org/conferences/overview.htm

# Professional Development

# Fear and Loathing of the AICP Exam: Strategies to Reduce Test Anxiety

A lighthearted look at preparation for the AICP exam from



Teresa Fredrickson. planner, ASCG Incorporated, Anchorage

The lull of summer activities, such as fishing, camping, and hiking successfully diverts any thoughts of AICP test anxiety. Why worry now, when the October AICP exam is months away? Besides, there is still plenty of time to study planning cases, cram facts, and catch a 70-pound King salmon. Procrastinate. Dreams of reeling in hefty halibut and feisty chrome salmon overshadow discipline. Procrastinate. Must possess fish pride; create fish envy. July...August...September. Soon, summer will wane and angst will reign supreme when October arrives. All hopes of passing the AICP exam will quickly vanish. To avoid crisis management in October, individuals taking the exam should consider employing

- 1) Forget about the AICP exam. Consume mass quantities of chocolate ice cream. Ben and Jerry's preferred.
- 2) Develop a study plan. Eat chocolate.

the following strategies:

3) Stop thinking about studying...actually study. Inhale any form of chocolate. Since passing the AICP exam offers professional credentials and prestige, developing a study plan is a reasonable alternative. With that in mind, a 90-day study plan outlines specific tasks to prepare for the AICP exam. By dedicating one hour, five days a week, you should greatly improve your chances of passing the test.



Information on AICP certification is available at http://www.planning.org/cert ification/

statistics? Become familiar with the "Green Book." Start taking practice exams, time yourself.

Association.

30 days out: Take at least 5 practice exams; note the amount of time spent on particular question types. Continue to become more comfortable with areas of difficulty. Find out where the exam will be held; go visit the test site if possible.

90 days out: Study planning history, learn

AICP ethics, understand pivotal cases in

zoning regulations. Read previous issues

of the Journal of the American Planning

60 days out: Focus on areas of

weakness; do you have difficulty with

At the end of the 90 day study plan, while I may not increase my brain size from studying arduously for a total of 450 hours, I will have augmented my girth tenfold from chocolate and ice cream. Helpful handy hints from successful AICP test takers include: get plenty of rest, complete the easiest questions first, eliminate obviously incorrect answers from the list of choices, and be sure to correctly answer earlier questions as following questions can be based on previous answers. Above all, use your time wisely. Now, I wonder if I can have chocolate during the exam...



"Study Materials"

### Distance Alternative for Continuing Planning Education

The Planning Education at a Distance Program at Ohio State University offers opportunities for planners and public officials to obtain continuing education through on-line interactive courses.

Through July 30th our two newest courses The Role of the BZA and Variances, as well as Ethics for Planners and Planning Commissioners are available at the introductory price of \$40.

Our current course offerings include

**AICP Exam Preparation** Site Planning

Basic Issues in Zoning **Smart Growth Legislation Design Review** Transfer of Development Rights

**Conservation Zoning** Planning Ethics

Managing Public Meetings

The Role of the BZA and Variances

Each of the courses, except AICP Exam Preparation, is designed to take between 4 and 8 hours to complete. Each course includes lectures from experts in the field, reading materials, links to outside resources, and an on-line discussion board. At the end of each course the participant completes an exam. Upon successfully completing the exam, each participant is awarded a certificate of completion.

The AICP Exam Preparation Course is a comprehensive preparation for the AICP exam. This course includes six practice exams, lectures, online discussion board, reading materials, and links to outside resources. Participants have access from the time they register through the exam period (for example now through November). For more information visit http://knowlton.osu.edu/ped or contact Jennifer Evans-Cowley at cowley.11@osu.edu or (614) 247-7479.