

50 Years of Influential North Carolina Planners

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In 2007, the North Carolina chapter of the American Planning Association (NCAPA) marks its 50th Anniversary, providing NCAPA with an excellent opportunity to celebrate and honor the accomplishments of the professionals who have most shaped planning practice in North Carolina over the past half century. Inspired by the Top Ten Planning Events in North Carolina article published in the Summer 2006 issue of this journal, members of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association (NCAPA) were asked to nominate their selections for the most influential planners in the state during the last 50 years. More than 70 planners participated in this process, submitting an impressive list of 104 nominations. These nominations were, in turn, narrowed down by the selection committee to the eight most influential planners, who are listed in alphabetical order below.

Choosing the most influential planners in the state was a difficult process, in recognition of the fact that planning as a profession has existed in North Carolina since the turn of the 20th century, and, as a result, there is a correspondingly huge pool of planners from which to draw. Many planners have contributed significantly to the well-being and quality of life of the communities where they have worked, but their impact goes well beyond the local level; many have also had regional, state, and even national influence. It can certainly be consid-

ered an honor in the profession to have been included in the 104 planners who were nominated, and to be among the eight who received the greatest number of votes is a major career achievement.

Warren L. Burgess

1948-2005

For 21 years, Warren L. Burgess worked as the Principal Urban Designer for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission, managing many large projects across the city. He deeply influenced the way places and spaces are designed, by emphasizing pedestrian-oriented site



planning, and by creating Charlotte's first urban-oriented zoning district. He also directed many urban design initiatives in the city, including the Third Ward Land Use and Urban Design Plan and Gateway Village, the Central

Avenue streetscape plan, and the North Davidson area plan (NODA). In 2000, gess moved to Davidson where he served as the town's Planning Director for the next

Mr. Burgess planned for transportation efforts that would integrate pedestrians, cyclists, and automobiles in an effort to save the existing character of Davidson's neighborhoods. In retirement, Mr. Burgess continued his work by taking a position with Neighboring Concepts, a Charlotte-based architecture and planning firm.

A tireless advocate of neighborhood planning and good urban design, Mr. Burgess was passionate about creating infrastructure that would connect people and celebrate the human spirit. People responded instinctively to his kindness, generosity, vision, and integrity. He understood that a city is defined by its people and, in this spirit, would talk to property owners on their own terms, in their own spaces, and on their own time schedules in order to better incorporate their ideas into his neighborhood designs. Mr. Burgess' dedication and unwillingness to buckle under political pressure allowed numerous neighborhood plans to be completed that emphasized neighborhood preservation and exceptional urban/landscape design instead of more standard designs.

In addition to completing numerous projects throughout his career, Mr. Burgess was also a well-regarded artist, whose renderings gave vision to his planning ideas and design concepts. He used his artistic talents to translate his visions for a neighborhood's future into simple, understandable images, which proved invaluable for residents, colleagues, and elected officials. His passion for the planning profession, generosity with his time, and his desire to share his knowledge made him a gifted teacher, mentor, and an inspiration for many young and prospective planners.

F. Stuart Chapin Jr., FAICP

F. Stuart Chapin Jr. was born in Northampton, MA in 1916. After earning his B.A. from the University of Minnesota and two degrees in city planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Mr. Chapin worked as a regional planner with the Tennessee Valley Authority and then as the Director of Planning for the city of Greensboro. In 1949, Mr. Chapin became the second faculty member hired by the newly established Department of City & Regional Planning (DCRP) at UNC-Chapel Hill. While at UNC, Mr. Chapin conducted many studies for the federal government, and served as a member of the President's Task Force on Cities. He served as Chair of the Department from 1957 until 1962, when he founded the Department's Center for Urban and Regional Studies, where he worked as the center's research director until his retirement in 1978.

As a pioneer in the Department of City and Regional Planning, Mr. Chapin spent nearly four decades establishing and improving the Department's urban studies curriculum. His countless hours of hard work and dedication helped make DCRP one of the most recognized planning programs in the country. Along with designing much of the classroom curricula, he is also the author of the first two editions of the seminal text *Urban Land Use Planning*—the most widely used land use planning textbook in graduate planning programs in the United States—and is an expert in the areas of urban growth, land development, human uses of city space, and citizen participation in the planning process. Shortly before he was named an Alumni Distinguished Professor in City and Regional Planning in 1969, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Institute of Planners, which later also presented him with its Historic Planning Pioneer Award. In 1992, Mr. Chapin and his wife, the former Mildred L. Canfield, established the F. Stuart Chapin Jr. and Mildred L. Chapin Endowment Fund to support the library in the Department of City and Regional Planning.

George Chapman, FAICP

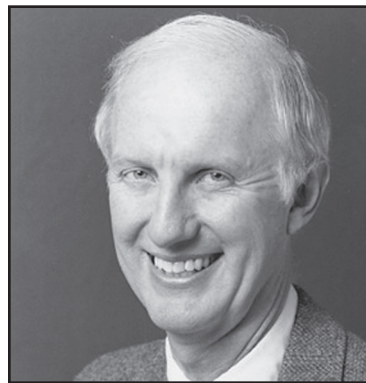
After receiving his Masters degree in City and Regional Planning in 1963, George Chapman served for two years as the city planning director in West Palm Beach, Florida, and the Metropolitan Washington, DC Council of Governments for 11 years, including five years as the director of planning coordination. After taking the job as Raleigh's planning director in 1981, Mr. Chapman spent 24 years engaging residents in the planning process, revamping the city's Comprehensive Plan, and working on many of the city's economic development, environmental, and growth issues. Along with his years of service in the Raleigh Planning Department, Mr. Chapman has also been an influential voice in statewide planning affairs, including serving as an AICP Commissioner, an American Planning Association Board member, and President of two different APA chapters.

One of Mr. Chapman's greatest achievements has been shepherding the city of Raleigh through one of its most dramatic growth periods, as he has guided the development of the city during its transformation from a small state capital into the thriving, attractive regional hub it is today. He has initiated many progressive, city-wide initiatives, many of which have been later used by other jurisdictions in their own planning efforts. During his tenure as planning director, he developed a new and modern planning framework that greatly assisted Raleigh in making the transition from moderate growth levels and traditional economies into higher growth and higher technology economies. Mr. Chapman particularly stands out for strengthening the role of the planning profession in one of North Carolina's largest cities for more than two decades. In 2005, upon his retirement as the Raleigh planning director, Mr. Chapman said that he was proudest of developing Raleigh's comprehensive planning process, reintroducing an emphasis on urban design, and developing the small-area planning process, which has become a strategic element in developing and protecting what he calls "Raleigh's greatest asset"—its

neighborhoods. He was also particularly influential in establishing regional partnerships throughout the Triangle region. In recognition of his numerous professional contributions to the city of Raleigh, the Triangle region, and the state of North Carolina, Mr. Chapman was inducted into the AICP College of Fellows in 2002.

Richard D. Ducker, AICP

An Associate Professor of Public Law and Government at the School of Government at UNC-Chapel Hill, Richard D. Ducker specializes in the legal aspects of land use, zoning, land development regulation, and code enforcement. Mr. Ducker has taught land use law and state and governmental law to many students in the



planning, law, and public administration programs on the Carolina campus. In addition to teaching his students at UNC, Mr. Ducker has also tirelessly traveled the state to present a variety of workshops and

programs to attorneys, planners, zoning officials, engineers, members of governing boards, planning boards, zoning boards of adjustment, and various other groups throughout North Carolina. Indeed, Mr. Ducker has become synonymous with planning in North Carolina, serving as a trusted and respected resource for planning-related information for thousands of planners over the years. As if contributing to the educations of thousands of North Carolina planners were not enough, Mr. Ducker has also helped educate much of the planning world at large; he is the author of a number of publications and articles on land use, zoning, land subdivision regulation, and transportation planning, and is presently working on a guidebook for zoning board of adjustment members.

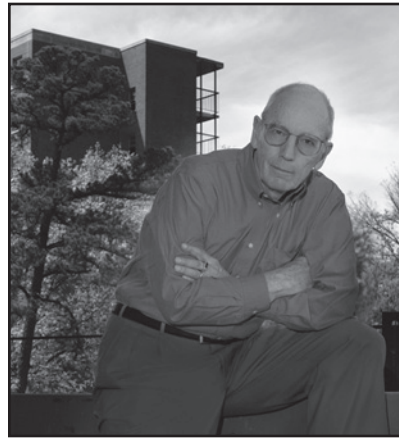
Aside from teaching planners and lawyers, Mr. Ducker has also provided valuable planning advice and input to a number of local governments and state agencies. He has served as a legislative advisor to several North Carolina General Assembly Legislative Research Commission committees, including those on Outdoor Advertising; Urban Transportation; and Developer Exactions and Property Issues; and he has drafted legislation for each of these. Additionally, he has been a member of the NC Attorney General's Committee on Historic Preservation Legislation; the N.C. Right-of-Way Protection Task Force; the Governor's Task Force on Solar Law, and the N.C. Disaster Response Task Force.

When he is not educating and advising public officials, Mr. Ducker gives freely of himself to non-profit and local organizations. For example, he was the past chair of both the Chapel Hill Township Planning Advisory Council and the Orange County Zoning Board of Adjustment. He has also been the co-chair of the N.C. Planning Conference since 1998. Indeed, over the years, Mr. Ducker has donated countless numbers of hours to NCAPA and its members and is the recipient of Distinguished Service Awards from both NCAPA and the N.C. Association of Zoning Officials. In addition, Mr. Ducker is currently the vice-chair of the N.C. Code Officials Qualification Board and is a member of the board of directors of Housing Alternatives, a nonprofit housing corporation in Chapel Hill. By touching and educating generations of North Carolina planners and providing valuable input and advice to North Carolina government at every level, Mr. Ducker is leaving an indelible and long-lasting legacy in this state.

David Godschalk, FAICP

In addition to being an active professional planner, David Godschalk is the Stephen Baxter Professor Emeritus in the Department of City and Regional Planning (DCRP) and Adjunct Professor in the MBA real estate program at the Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC-

Chapel Hill. In his long-held role as an educator at the local, regional, state, and national levels, Mr. Godschalk has enlightened and mentored many Master's and Ph.D. students, who have gone on to successful planning careers in North Carolina and across the nation. As a recognized researcher and author, Mr. Godschalk has spanned three planning fields: growth management



and land use planning; hazard mitigation and coastal management; and dispute resolution and public participation. He has been principal investigator on 17 funded research projects, has written numerous

journal articles, and has published ten books, several of which are used as textbooks and references throughout the United States.

Aside from his academic work, Mr. Godschalk has also served as an elected member of the Chapel Hill Town Council from 1985-1989 and as the Governor's appointee on the N.C. Smart Growth Commission from 2000-2001. He has been editor of the AIP Journal, the vice-president of a Tampa planning consulting firm, planning director of Gainesville, FL, a planning faculty member at Florida State University, and an expert witness in a number of planning and growth management cases. He is a registered architect in Florida and a retired Commander in the US Naval Reserve.

In recognition of his lifetime of achievements in the field of planning education, research, and practice, Mr. Godschalk has received numerous honors and awards from his professional colleagues: AICP Fellow; ACSP Distinguished Educator Award; Department of City and Regional Planning Distinguished Alumnus Award, and

NCAPA Elected Official Award and Distinguished Professional Achievement Medal. More than a legend in the UNC DCRP, Mr. Godschalk is truly a model for all planning professionals and educators to emulate.

Philip Green, Jr.

1922-2003



During a career that spanned almost 40 years, Philip Green wrote some of the definitive works on North Carolina's zoning law, organized some of the state's first short courses for plan-

ners, and drafted a good portion of the General Assembly's planning and zoning enabling legislation still in force today. Many people have referred to Mr. Green as the "father of North Carolina zoning." Mr. Green graduated from Princeton College and Harvard Law School. He served in the Army during WWII and retired from the Army Reserve as a lieutenant colonel. In his professional career, Mr. Green was the Albert Coates Professor of Public Law and Government for many years at the Institute of Government at UNC-Chapel Hill, a post from which he retired in 1988. During his 38 years there, Mr. Green became known as a prolific writer, and an outstanding teacher and lecturer.

Perhaps Mr. Green's greatest contribution to North Carolina, however, was the counsel and support that he provided to thousands of planners, local government attorneys, planning and governing boards members, and code-enforcement officers. In the days before listservs, e-mail, or even computers, a telephone call or letter to Mr. Green was a surefire way to get the definitive information one needed. Indeed, Mr. Green once said that

the most satisfying part of his work was helping the people whose jobs were the most difficult because they appreciated it the most.

In recognition of his many career achievements, Mr. Green received the NCAPA Distinguished Service Award, which is now named in his honor. Similar honors were bestowed upon him by the N.C. Association of Zoning Officials, the N.C. Municipal Attorneys' Association, and the N.C. Building Inspectors' Association. Upon his retirement from UNC, Mr. Green was lauded as the state's pre-eminent expert in planning and zoning law and as one of the true planning legends in North Carolina.

Wes Hankins, FAICP



In a career spanning almost four decades, Wes Hankins, FIACP, has held a wide variety of both academic and professional roles—planner, professor, administrator, leader, mentor,

researcher, board member, and head tennis coach for the East Carolina University (ECU) men's team. It is in his capacity as professor of planning, however, that Mr. Hankins has most deeply shaped the state of North Carolina.

In 1968, Mr. Hankins moved to North Carolina from Florida to fill a faculty position in the Department of Geography and Planning at ECU, a position he held until his retirement in 2005. Currently, Mr. Hankins serves as Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at ECU. Throughout his career, in addition to teaching countless geography and planning courses, he was also involved in many aspects

of campus and community life, and has authored and co-authored many articles and documents, mostly relating to planning education. Additionally, Mr. Hankins has received many awards, including recent recognition as an Outstanding Planning Faculty Member in the spring of 2004.

Perhaps his most important achievement involves his work in developing the Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning at ECU—a program that has trained dozens of the state’s planning professionals. Additionally, he has served as an effective advocate for undergraduate planning education at the state and national level through the use of his numerous leadership positions in local, state, and national planning organizations. He has served NCAPA continuously for over 30 years in many capacities—as Vice President in 1978, President in 1979, Co-Chair of the Awards Committee, and as Chapter Historian since 1986. Moreover, he has been instrumental in hosting the NCAPA Summer Planning Institute—an event that has been held at ECU eight times over his career—and has taught a component of the AICP Review Course for the past ten years. In honor of his accomplishments and commitment to the field, Mr. Hankins was inducted into the AICP College of Fellows in 2004.

While Mr. Hankins has consistently placed a high priority on developing and maintaining relationships with national planning associations, his greatest influence is ultimately best measured by the success of the approximately 1,000 ECU planning alumni currently hard at work shaping the future of North Carolina.

David Owens

Throughout his career, David Owens has proven to be a tremendous influence on the state of North Carolina—as planner, policy maker, and educator. A North Carolina native, Mr. Owens graduated from both the planning school and the law school at UNC-Chapel Hill.

After a stint as an attorney and senior planner for the Wisconsin State Planning Office, he returned to the Tar Heel State in 1978, and began his planning career at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR). During his decade of work at the agency, Mr. Owens helped move the state to the front lines of addressing coastal management issues. Along with writing nationally-recognized oceanfront development policies, Mr. Owens added a mandatory hazard mitigation component in local and state plans, created new beach access and natural area acquisition programs, and conducted early work on the use of planning and land use tools for protecting water quality and habitats.

Mr. Owens left NCDENR in 1989 to begin a career in Public Law and Government at the UNC-Chapel Hill



School of Government, where in his 18-year tenure at the School of Government, he has become one of the most respected experts on various aspects of planning and has served as a trusted resource/consultant for thousands of planners and government officials.

Additionally, Mr. Owens has written a number of the books on which practicing planners and government officials rely daily. Though the publications Mr. Owens has authored are too numerous to list here, three are now regarded as standard references for planners in North Carolina: *Introduction to Zoning*, *Land Use Law in North Carolina*, and *Planning Legislation in North Carolina*. Moreover, the course he teaches along with Rich Ducker, *Introduction to Planning Practice in North Carolina*, has been taken by most practicing planners in the state.

Finally, his expansive knowledge and dedication to the planning profession have been manifested in his service to the NCAPA, offering both legal and legislative

guidance to the organization and its members, helping to plan and organize the annual N.C. Planning Conference, and educating practicing planners and citizens through workshops in all corners of the state. Without question, Mr. Owens' contributions to the planning profession have greatly shaped this state.

Other nominations

In addition to these eight individuals, several other planners received a substantial number of votes from NCAPA members, recognizing their contributions to both the planning profession and to the state of North Carolina. Given the tremendous amount of support, it is appropriate to name these individuals and to recognize them for their outstanding careers.

Martin Crampton

Robert E. Reiman, FAICP

Stephen E. Davenport, AICP

Sue Schwartz, FAICP

Ben Hitchings, AICP

Pearson H. Stewart, AICP

Edward J. Kaiser, FAICP

Robert E. Stipe

David H. Moreau

Roger S. Waldon, FAICP

John A. "Jack" Parker

W. Jake Wicker

Conclusion

Each of these outstanding individuals has greatly influenced the practice of planning in North Carolina, whether as educators, planners, or policy makers. Their careers are worthy of celebration at this special anniversary, for North Carolina would be a very different place without their commitment and expertise.