

PRESS RELEASE

NEW YORK UPSTATE CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION



For Immediate Release

Contacts: Marcia O. Kees, Department of Geography and Planning, University at Albany
(518) 813-2166, mkees@albany.edu
Sean M. Maguire, AICP CEcD – Vice President of the APA New York Upstate
Chapter (518) 227-1844, smaguire@gmail.com

ROCHESTER, NY – The New York Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association recognized 16 winners at its 2019 Professional Awards Program on October 3, 2019. Students in the University at Albany Masters in Regional Planning Studio received an award for BEST PRACTICE for their project *Saratoga Springs Natural Resource Inventory*.

These awards recognize outstanding contributions to the field of city, town, and regional planning. The Professional Awards program recognized outstanding submissions in the areas of comprehensive planning, implementation, public outreach, best practice, and distinguished leadership.

“The Upstate Chapter Awards Program has been a centerpiece of our Annual Conferences for years and once again we were thrilled to present our membership with exemplary examples of recent projects completed by Chapter Members that are bringing about positive change and benefits for residents of Upstate New York,” said Mark Castiglione, AICP. Castiglione is President of the New York Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association and an alumnus of the University at Albany MRP Program.

The Fall 2018 Studio focused on four topical areas that were identified as crucial via stakeholder feedback gathered by the students: 1) Best practices for the acquisition and development of pocket parks; 2) An inventory and comparison of the conservation easements located in the city; 3) A proposed methodology and field assessment form to document scenic views and viewpoints; and 4) Field observations, GPS points, and inventory and analysis on the City’s unique mineral springs to contribute to an on-line interactive data base. The Studio collaborated with the City of Saratoga Springs, the Saratoga Springs Open Space Advisory Committee and the City’s consultant, LaBella Associates, in this research for the city’s Natural Resource Inventory, which will serve as a foundation for informed land use planning and decision making.

“We are thrilled to receive this award which recognizes the hard work conducted by our graduate students. We would like to thank our community partners for hosting our studio project and providing assistance and constructive feedback to our students,” said Marcia Kees, Adjunct Faculty and Studio Instructor. “We congratulate the students who participated in this studio: Karthik Soundara Rajan, Ian Barr, Brianna Francis and Jared Sayles.”

“The Professional Awards celebrate the hard and rewarding work that our colleagues do each day,” said Sean Maguire, AICP. Maguire, Vice President of the Chapter, Chair of the Awards Committee and UAlbany alumnus. “We are really pleased to highlight these projects and there is no better time to do so than during National Community Planning Month.”

The American Planning Association provides leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in planning, promoting education and citizen empowerment, and providing our members with the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change. The New York Upstate Chapter of the American Association advances the work of the national organization in 48 counties north of the New York City metropolitan region.

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