



Heath Retires

On February 28, Milton S. Heath Jr. celebrated retirement from fifty years on the School of Government faculty. At the celebration, Bill Ross, secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, presented Heath with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award on behalf of Governor Mike Easley. The award is the highest civilian honor given by the State of North Carolina.

Heath's career in public service spanned some of the most important years in the history of use and protection of environmental and natural resources. As legal counsel to several North Carolina House and Senate standing committees from 1967 to 1983, Heath helped pioneer significant environmental legislation on water use, dam safety, environmental policy, coastal area management, control of pesticides and oil and hazardous substances, and protection of mountain ridges.

Heath joined the Institute of Government in 1957 in natural resources and environmental law. Soon after beginning to teach state and local public officials, he added courses in environmental law for graduate students at UNC at Chapel Hill and Duke University. Heath has consulted in countries from England to Kenya and written on air pollution control in Germany and Canada. He is the author or the coauthor of four books, numerous articles and professional papers, and eight law review articles.



Bill Ross (left) presents the Long Leaf Pine award to Milton Heath.

Energy Conservation through Neighborhood Design

The New Urbanism movement has resulted in some neighborhoods that are very energy-efficient, but the relative proportion of dwellings built in New Urbanism communities to total dwelling units is low. Also, the viability of some New Urbanism innovations that can reduce energy consumption, such as neighborhood commercial facilities, has yet to be proven.

Many of these enterprises probably will not survive because people still drive to shop, rather than walk to closer commercial facilities.

I see more mixed-use developments that combine commercial and residential facilities, but they probably are a small proportion of new commercial development projects overall. The same is true of transit-oriented developments that cluster commercial and residential land uses near mass transit lines.

There is little evidence of neighborhood design being used to gain passive solar advantages. Also, little progress has been made in revision of subdivision regulations to require layouts that maximize the potential for gains in passive solar energy (although some places have done this, such as Boulder, Colorado).

Further, little evidence exists that district heating schemes have been used in many places. At least, I do not know of any such schemes built in the past twenty-five years in the United States.

Energy Conservation and Urban Form

Overall, not much progress has been made in diminishing urban sprawl. It continues to be the predominant urban form in a number of metropolitan areas, particularly in North Carolina.

Nevertheless, progress on this front is being made, even if slowly. About one hundred metropolitan areas have programs in place at various scales (town, county, and metrowide) to limit urban sprawl. Unfortunately there are only a few metrowide examples, such as in Portland and other metropolitan areas in Oregon.

Increasing density along transportation routes is important to foster greater viability for alternatives to the automobile. It is occurring in a number of places, but neighbors living in single-family units often resist higher-density development, so bringing about change is a struggle. Its prospects can be enhanced if arterial routes, transit, and adjacent multifamily housing precede the development of single-family housing along transit corridors.

Little progress has been made in revising subdivision regulations to help maximize gains from use of passive solar energy.

Conclusion

In sum, community planning measures of various kinds have contributed to improved energy efficiency in urban areas since I wrote about this subject thirty years ago. But the promise of using land-use planning measures to improve energy efficiency in large measure has not been realized.

What does the future hold? Much depends on the price of energy relative to the price of other goods and services. If the record-high prices of the past year are sustained over time, there may be political support for the adoption of state and local government regulations requiring energy-efficient housing and community development practices. In fact, home and community builders will be increasingly likely to adopt such measures on their own in response to consumer demand, without government coercion.

To the degree that high energy prices are a short-term phenomenon, a repeat of the experience of the 1970s and 1980s seems likely. Currently, high energy prices are based on the poor performance of the dollar against other currencies and the extraordinary demand for energy brought about by unsustainably high rates of economic development in China, India, and other developing countries. If the dollar begins to perform better and rates of growth slow, the rate of increase in energy prices also may slow. If so, the current interest in energy conservation and energy efficiency will fade, the private sector will return to business as usual, and cities and counties will find it impossible to force the development of housing and communities that save rather than waste energy.

In January 2008, Heath was inducted into the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Hall of Fame, complementing his election in 2005 to the Southeastern States Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Hall of Fame. He received the 2007 J. M. Jarrett Award from the Environmental Health Section of the North Carolina Public Health Association for his excellent work “in the environmental health field as a proponent, teacher, and leader.” Also in 2007, he received his second Newton Underwood Award for Excellence in Teaching from the UNC at Chapel Hill School of Public Health.

At the retirement ceremony, School of Government Dean Michael R. Smith announced the launch of an endowment fund to create the Milton S. Heath Jr. Environmental Lecture at the School. The endowed lecture, Smith said, “will continue the remarkable tradition of teaching and learning that Milton has embodied for more than five decades.”

Gifts to the new endowment may be made to the SOG Foundation, CB# 3330, Knapp-Sanders Building, Chapel Hill, NC 27516. Call 919.966.9780 for more information.

Faculty and Alumna, School, Earn National Awards

Faculty members Maureen M. Berner and Frayda S. Bluestein and MPA Program alumna Heather Martin are the 2008 recipients of the prestigious Louis Brownlow Award, which was presented in March at the national conference of the American Society for Public Administration. Given annually since 1961, the Brownlow Award recognizes the best *Public Administration Review* article written by a practitioner. The award-winning article, “Documenting Disparity in Minority Contracting: Legal Requirements and Recommendations for Policy Makers,” was published in the May–June 2007 issue of the journal.

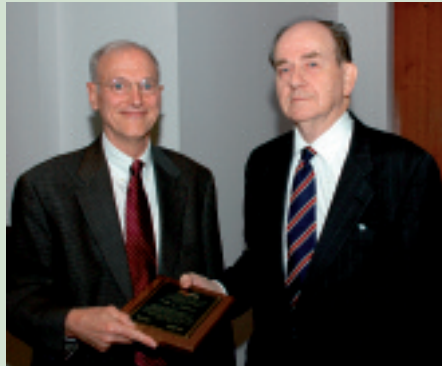
The National Conference of Specialized Court Judges, part of the American Bar Association’s Judicial Division, has selected the School of Government to receive its coveted 2008 Judicial Education Award. The award recognizes the

School’s efforts in providing high-quality judicial education and training to district court judges. Faculty member Cheryl Daniels Howell, who specializes in education for North Carolina’s district court judges, will accept the award on behalf of the School at a ceremony in August in New York City. The School also received this award in 1998.



Cheryl D. Howell

Sanders Honored for Contributions to State Constitution



John Sanders (right) accepts the John McNeill Smith Jr. Award from School of Government faculty member Michael Crowell.

John L. Sanders, who directed the Institute of Government from 1962 to 1973 and from 1979 to 1992, was honored in February with the North Carolina Bar Association’s 2008 John McNeill Smith Jr. Constitutional Rights and Responsibilities Section Award.

The section established the award to honor a person who has demonstrated extraordinary commitment to the ideals embodied in the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of North Carolina. The presentation was made by Michael Crowell, professor of public law and government at the School of Government, who submitted the nomination.

Sanders was the principal staff person for the 1968 North Carolina State Constitution Study Commission, which produced the state’s present constitution.

“For decades he has been recognized as one of the most knowledgeable people in the state on the history and meaning of the state constitution.” Crowell said.

Sanders retired from the School faculty in 1995.

City Officials Study Essentials

Nearly 700 mayors, council members, administrators, and attorneys attended the 2008 Essentials of Municipal Government course, which was offered at six locations across the state from January through March.

The Essentials course provides new and veteran municipal officials with an introduction to the responsibilities, the challenges, and the opportunities inherent in leading and governing North Carolina cities. For the first time, a one-day advanced course for veteran municipal and county leaders was offered concurrently.

The School of Government offers sincere thanks and appreciation to Food Lion, which provided major support and scholarships for the course, and to the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM), the North Carolina City and County Management Association, the Local Government Federal Credit Union, and the NCLM Local Leadership Foundation for additional support. These important contributions allow the School to offer the Essentials course at the lowest possible price and respond effectively to the educational needs of municipal leaders.

An Essentials course for county commissioners will be offered after the county elections in late 2008. To learn more, visit www.sog.unc.edu/courses/0640.



Ninety-Five Graduate from 2007–2008 Municipal and County Administration Courses

Representing municipalities from Kitty Hawk to Waynesville and counties from Gates to Haywood, ninety-five graduates celebrated their successful completion of the Municipal and County Administration courses in April 2008.

The intensive eight-month program serves city and county managers, department heads, and other officials whose responsibilities require a comprehension of functions beyond their individual areas of specialization. Course participants gain a better understanding of the relationships among activities or departments and the contributions of specific laws, programs, and functions to the achievement of the overall mission of a local government.

Mujeeb Shah-Khan, assistant city attorney for Charlotte, received the George C. Franklin Award, presented by the North Carolina League of Municipalities. Dan Porter, planning director for Camden County, received the Edwin M. Gill Award, presented by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners.

More than 2,500 officials have graduated from the Municipal Administration Course since its inception in 1954, and more than 1,200 officials, from the County Administration Course since its inception ten years later. For more information, visit www.sog.unc.edu/programs/mcap, or call Brian Newport at 919.966.6880.

Faculty Member Stephens Visits China

Imagine that you are watching TV news about protests in Tibet and suddenly the screen goes blank and the sound stops. School of Government faculty member John B. Stephens experienced this form of government censorship during a trip to China in March 2008. Over a two-week period, Stephens visited the cities of Shanghai, Chengdu, and Xiamen to learn more about ways in which China affects the United States and what that might mean for North Carolina government and community leaders.

Stephens spent a week traveling with Leaders Quest, a private organization that seeks to “enable people in positions of influence to stand in the shoes of others, to understand the impact of their decisions, to make wiser decisions, and to build a better world.” One of its cofounders, Fields Wicker-Miurin, is a North Carolina native and daughter of the late Jake Wicker, a School faculty member from 1955 to 2003. Political protests in Tibet began during that week, and Stephens experienced blocked websites and obstructed media coverage of the turmoil. “While we might complain about U.S. TV shows and news reporting, I had never experi-



In the month before his trip to China, Stephens arranged for fourth and fifth graders in the dual-language Chinese-English program at Glenwood Elementary School (Chapel Hill) to be the teachers for 100 adult students in the 2008 Municipal and County Administration courses. Also, Steven Levine, UNC at Chapel Hill Asian Studies professor emeritus, spoke on the challenges and the opportunities in North Carolina’s connections to China.

enced that kind of censorship,” he said.

Later in his trip, Stephens met with public administration faculty and lectured on the U.S. presidential campaign at the University of Electric Sciences and Technology in Chengdu and at Xiamen University, where UNC at Chapel Hill sponsors a fall-semester study-abroad program for undergraduate students. At Xiamen University, he also lectured on the U.S. system of environmental mediation in policy making, regulation development, and conflict resolution.

Financial support for the trip was provided by the School of Government and UNC at Chapel Hill’s Kenan-Flagler Business School and Center for Global Initiatives.



MPA Graduation

The School congratulates the twenty-four Master of Public Administration students who graduated from the two-year degree program on May 10, 2008. Front row (left to right): Heather Chartier, Andrea Cain, Julie Walden, Heather Scarbrough, Wilson Cho, Laura Jensen, John King, Kate Shem. Middle row (left to right): Sean Coffey, Shannon Byers, Jackie Ashley, Heather Strickland, Carol Hickey, Randall Lyons, Justin Amos, Peter Franzese. Back row (left to right): Nicholas Dula, Shawn Purvis, Ryan Ewalt, Ryan Davidson, Steven Buter, Glenn Barnes. Not pictured: Jamie McColl, Michael Stepanek.