



President's Message

Dear Fellow Public Administrator:

Another exciting year for DAPA! In addition to our winter and spring activities, I am so happy to have been part of our fall events and activities.

Our fall Brown-Bag Panel Session: Careers in Public Service Featuring MA and MPA Alumni, held on October 11, 2010, at the University of Delaware in Newark. Its School of Urban Affairs & Public Policy alumni panelists (Jonathan Kirch*, Mandy Tolino, Leah Jones*, Andy Haines, and Nicole Quinn*) discussed career paths, experiences, and opportunities for current public policy students.



**Julia O'Hanlon
President**

Several of our DAPA colleagues and students presented at the **Northeast Conference on Public Administration at Rutgers University-Newark: Public Service Under Pressure**. DAPA Vice-President Kimberly Gomes and I served as part of the conference steering committee. Although I was unable to attend, I heard from several Delaware attendees that the event was well attended and included an interesting array of topics and presentations.

This year's **Annual Awards Dinner** was very special, as DAPA joined together to host the event with the Delaware Chapter of the American Planning Association (DE-APA). The evening celebrated the work we all do in our communities and recognized individuals who have been influential in public administration and planning. We were honored to have with us **Delaware Secretary of Health & Social Services Rita Landgraf** and **Delaware Congressman-Elect John Carney**.

With my term as President ending, I thank all of you who have been involved in the resurgence of DAPA through coordinating activities, attending events, and sharing ideas for networking and promoting public service here in Delaware. It's been a pleasure to serve on a council with such enthusiastic, organized, and fun individuals! Our organization is well on its way to becoming a leading professional network and dynamic chapter of ASPA. As past President, I look forward to working with **incoming President Jonathan Justice** and the rest of the DAPA Council in planning many of the 2011 events and activities. With the **2011 ASPA Conference** taking place in Baltimore (March), I hope that DAPA is well represented.

On behalf of all of the **DAPA Public Service Reader** contributors and editors, we hope you enjoy our stories and articles as much as we've enjoyed sharing them. We look forward to your continued participation and interest in promoting public service here in Delaware!

Julia O'Hanlon, MPA
President

*DAPA member

2011 DAPA Council

DAPA welcomes the following recently elected and returning officers and Council members. The 2011 DAPA Council is as follows:

- **Jonathan Justice**, PhD, President (2011-2013)
University of Delaware, School of Public Policy and Administration, Institute for Public Administration Associate Professor and Associate Policy Scientist
- **Kathy Wian**, First Vice President (2011-2013)
University of Delaware, School of Public Policy and Administration, Institute for Public Administration Policy Scientist (Coordinator, Conflict Resolution Program)
- **Martin Wollaston**, Treasurer (2009-2011)
University of Delaware, School of Public Policy and Administration, Institute for Public Administration Policy Scientist (Manager, Planning Services Group; Senior Planner, Water Resources Agency)
- **Julia O’Hanlon**, Council, Past President (2011-2013)
University of Delaware, School of Public Policy and Administration, Institute for Public Administration Assistant Policy Scientist (Staff Liaison, Delaware League of Local Governments)
- **Gene Dvornick**, Council (2011-2013)
*Town of Georgetown, Del.
Town Manager*
- **Kimberly Gomes**, Council (2011-2013)
*The Byrd Group LLC
Government Relations Specialist*
- **Kelly Sherretz**, Council (2009-2011)
*University of Delaware, Delaware Education Research and Development Center
Education Specialist*
- **Kyle Sonnenberg**, Council (2011-2013)
*City of Newark, Del.
City Manager*

DAPA would also like to recognize its 2010-2011 DAPA Fellow, **Corinne O’Connor**, who is a public policy undergraduate student at the University of Delaware. As part of her Public Service Fellowship with the University of Delaware’s Institute for Public Administration, Corinne, assists DAPA Council with program planning, membership, communications, and various DAPA-related tasks.

Through appointment, two additional seats will be filled between December 2010-January 2011: one council seat and the 2nd Vice-President position that became vacant as result of the recent election. These positions will be appointed in December 2010/January 2011 for a year-long term. If you are interested in becoming a DAPA Council member or officer please contact Julia O’Hanlon (jusmith@udel.edu) or Jonathan Justice (justice@udel.edu) for more information.

—by Martha Corrozi Narvaez

A Note from the President-Elect

Recognizing Julia O'Hanlon

As I prepare to assume the presidency of the Delaware Association for Public Administration, I want to thank outgoing DAPA President **Julia O'Hanlon** for her outstanding leadership over the past three years. Julia provided truly exemplary service both as our elected President for 2009-2010 and for over a year before that as chair of the steering committee that worked in 2007 and 2008 to resuscitate what had been a moribund DAPA. Without Julia's exceptional energy and leadership skills, it is unlikely that DAPA would be the thriving and growing organization it is today. We enter 2011 with a growing membership and a recent history of successful and well-attended activities, including last month's outstanding annual awards dinner, held jointly with the Delaware Chapter of the American Planning Association.



I am sure that Julia will insist that reviving and running DAPA has been a team effort. Certainly that is true: all of our officers and council members at large, as well as many other members and friends of DAPA, have worked hard and made major contributions to DAPA's revitalization over the past three years. But it is equally true that Julia's tireless work and deft leadership is what made that happen in the first place. Over the past three years, she has led by example, demonstrating genuinely remarkable energy, commitment, and accomplishment, contributing her own ideas and work in abundance, and consistently eliciting constructive ideas and contributions from those around her. Thanks to Julia, this collective effort has led to a reorganized and reinvigorated DAPA.

I know I speak for all who have had the pleasure of working with her over the last three years in saying, "Thank you, Julia, for your superb leadership, and we look forward to seeing you at DAPA activities as we carry on your work." I hope, too, that we will all express our gratitude to her, not just with our words of thanks but also by working effectively to sustain the vital organization she helped recreate.

Jonathan Justice, Ph.D.
DAPA President-Elect

National News

ASPA's Communications Plans

ASPA is working to update its entire information and communications infrastructure. This includes its website (hurrah!) and the way some of its publications and communications will be distributed. Some of those changes have already begun.

For example, those of you who have been members for a while might have noticed that the *PA Times* newspaper is now being published only six times per year, down from its former monthly frequency. At the same time, however, the new online version of *PA Times* (patimes.eznuz.com/News.cfm) is now being updated on a regular basis. For the next year, *PA Times* will again be published in print six times, and we expect that the online version will continue to expand and improve. The *PA Times* editorial board, of which I am a member, recently produced a strategy incorporating a number of specific recommendations to make a future version of *PA Times* a centerpiece of the new ASPA website, with a variety of interactive features and a news-aggregator function. We also proposed some further changes in format and frequency for the print version.

In the meantime, I'll take the opportunity to remind you that *PA Times* is a forum for all ASPA members and that your contributions of articles, news items, letters to the editor, and comments are always welcome. For submitting formal articles of up to 1,200 words, please see the editorial calendar and guidelines posted at patimes.eznuz.com/News.cfm. ASPA chapter and related news items are always welcome as well. Finally, the online version enables registered readers to comment on articles. Registration is free.

National Conference in Baltimore

Don't forget that ASPA's 2011 national conference will take place in Baltimore, March 11-15, 2011. Our own Maria Aristigueta co-chairs the conference's program committee, and outgoing DAPA President O'Hanlon has been in touch with the Baltimore Chapter's host committee to offer our assistance. Be on the lookout for opportunities to help make this conference a success.

The Public Manager Magazine.

In addition to receiving *PA Times*, *Public Administration Review*, and other ASPA publications and communications, ASPA members continue to have free access to each new issue (and back issues since spring 2008) of *The Public Manager*, a non-ASPA quarterly magazine for public administration practitioners. Once you log in to the ASPA website using your member ID, you will see links on the home page for PDF files of the issues.

—by Jonathan Justice

The screenshot shows the PA TIMES website. At the top, there's a header with the title "A Powerful Voice for Public Service for 25 years" and the PA TIMES logo. Below the header is a navigation bar with links like Home, News, Commentary, Columns, Links, Calendar, Archives, Contact Us, and ASPA Website. The main content area is titled "Good to Know...Week of November 22, 2010" and lists several articles with thumbnails and brief descriptions. On the right side, there are sections for "Top Rated Stories" and "Article Popularity". The footer contains contact information and a copyright notice for 2010.

Chapter News

Brown-Bag Lunch with Alumni Panel

On Monday, October 11, 2010, DAPA, in conjunction with the University of Delaware's School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy and its MPA Program, hosted a Brown-Bag Lunch in the Perkins Student Center on the University's main campus. Several alumni spoke to graduate and undergraduate students about their own careers in public service, providing insight and tips. Students from DAPA member **Douglas Tuttle**'s internship class attended and were eager to learn about the broad opportunities in the public administration field. DAPA President **Julia O'Hanlon** provided opening remarks before introducing the panel of five alumni.

Leah Jones, a 2001 MPA graduate, credited the Legislative Fellows Program and the amount of experience obtained through working with government officials. While discussing the role and practices of a Fellow and the interactions that pertain to the daily compromising that happens in Dover, Jones said, "There are no books to help you understand how everything comes together." She stated that the biggest surprise of her career thus far was how after graduation she ended up taking a part-time job with the hope of quickly advancing her position.



Up next was American Heart Association & American Stroke Association lobbyist **Jon Kirch**.

He's a 2007 MPA graduate and the Regional Government Relations Director for the organization. He gave the students a few valuable tips. "You have to put yourself in the right position and make sure you're visible, attending things that are optional; this will differentiate you from the other students." Kirch, who also was selected to participate in the Legislative Fellows Program, said that his biggest surprise was the broad range of disagreements that occur in Dover, even some dealing with the American Heart Association. He jokingly added, "You'd think everybody would be [in favor of] healthy hearts!"

Mandy Tolino, the panel's only MA graduate (2009), discussed some of the challenges that go along with her unique role as the City of Wilmington's Urban Forestry Administrator. "Being able to read plans brought in by contractors and speak their language was something that I had to learn to prove myself," she said. Tolino stated that what did make her current occupation slightly easier was that she was able to actually write her own job description while interning with the city as a student. She explains that her biggest surprise was figuring out that it's not solely about what you know, but with whom you interact and your experience working with the government. Her advice for the students was, "Take risks! Take advantage of internships and don't let opportunities pass you by."



Andy Haines is a 2002 MPA graduate and is now the Township Manager of Hatfield Township, Pa. He said the key to working in government is understanding “the elected mind.” He commended the Legislative Fellows Program for helping him experience working with council members who sometimes have divergent opinions. He encouraged the students by saying, “Don’t lose track [of the fact] that everyone starts somewhere.” Haines elaborated on some of the challenges that come with his position. “Every community has unique socioeconomic

conditions among its residential and business community. Infrastructure conditions and geographical proximity greatly impact each municipality. In today’s economic climate, maintaining quality services the community expects without raising taxes or fees while maintaining efficiencies presents a challenge for all governments.”



Nicole Quinn, a 2007 MPA grad, is the Preparedness Director for the state’s Division of Public Health. She says that having a field of interest when beginning one’s MPA program is important. “You have to know what you want and move forward; don’t be too narrow and don’t be too broad,” she explains. Nicole focused on hot

topics during her MPA work and said that she used this research to develop her own interests. During her time in the MPA Program, she worked as a legislative liaison with the Delaware Department of Education. Nicole states, “Working for DOE allowed me to understand the unique position that state governments are in when it comes to policy development.” Her biggest tip to the students was about networking. “Understanding that there is a network of professionals that can help you achieve your goals is really important. The relationships I built at IPA are lifelong, both personally and professionally.”

Many first-year MPA students attended the event because it had been coordinated with Tuttle’s internship class. Though they were a bit shy during the Q&A session, students used the opportunity afterwards for networking and individual questions. Students gave unanimous feedback that this event should be held again next year and that it was very informative (and the free food didn’t hurt). Hearing that MPA alumni have so greatly benefited from the program and about their experiences with internships and courses was very encouraging to the first-year students, and it was wonderful that the panelists were able to take time to come back to campus to speak to the students. Hearing from former students who are now successful public policy professionals is always very positive, and we hope to have as much success with this event in the years to come.



—by Corinne O’Connor

photos by Mark Deshon

DAPA and the Delaware Chapter of the American Planning Association's 2010 Annual Awards Dinner

On November 8, 2010, the Delaware Association for Public Administration (DAPA) and the Delaware Chapter of the American Planning Association (DE-APA) joined together for their 2010 Annual Awards Dinner at the Embassy Suites in Newark, Del. The event brought together these two local professional associations with common missions and recognized professionals and rising stars in the public administration and planning fields in Delaware.



The evening began with a networking and social time among DAPA and DE-APA members with background music provided by Delaware native and local musician "Richie O." **Julia O'Hanlon**, outgoing DAPA president, served as emcee for the evening and welcomed the group on behalf of DAPA. DE-APA President **Pat Maley** welcomed the group on behalf of her organization. Their remarks were followed by a dinner.

Adding excitement to an already fun-filled evening was a visit from **Delaware Congressman-Elect John Carney**, who was eager to meet with DAPA and DE-APA members as well as each organization's honored award recipients. Carney is no stranger to DAPA and has participated in previous events and activities including DAPA's Series on Leadership Visions for Delaware's Future (December 2007, Wilmington).



Shortly after dinner, DAPA and DE-APA conducted the awards ceremony and organizational business. **Edward O'Donnell** received the 2010 DAPA Public Service Award. This award recognizes a public administrator who has made substantial contributions to professional public management and service in Delaware. **Claire Beck** received DAPA's Outstanding Student Public Service Award. This award is presented each year to a graduate student who best exemplifies the caliber of achievement necessary for a successful public service career.

DE-APA presented several noteworthy awards. **Constance (Connie) Holland**, Director of Delaware's Office of State Planning Coordination, was awarded DE-APA's Peter Larson

Memorial Achievement Award for lifetime achievements that have left substantial and lasting impressions on the social and physical landscape of the state of Delaware and surrounding region. DE-APA's President's Award, given to a member of the executive committee performing exceptional work, was presented to **Chris M. Oakes**, Project Manager with the Delaware Division of Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities. Delaware Chapter Service Awards were also presented for outstanding volunteer service to DE-APA. Awardees were **Jason Berry**, **Janelle Cornwell**, **Michael Albert**, and **John Kurth**. DAPA congratulates these winners.

Following the award presentations, DAPA's election results were announced. Those gathered welcomed the following recently elected officers and council members (2011-2013), whose terms begin January 1.

- **Jonathan Justice**, President
- **Kathy Wian**, 1st Vice President
- **Kimberly Gomes**, Council
- **Gene Dvornick**, Council
- **Kyle Sonnenberg**, Council

On behalf of DAPA, President-elect **Jonathan Justice** took the opportunity to thank Julia O'Hanlon for her exceptional service to the organization. Julia has served as president from 2008-2010 and Advisory Council Coordinator during the organization's resurgence from 2007-2008. During her time, she has shaped DAPA into one of Delaware's more active professional associations with more than 70 members.



DE-APA also thanked Pat Maley for her leadership and handed over the presidential gavel to its next president, **Dave Edgell**, who works for Delaware's Office of State Planning Coordination.



The Honorable Rita Landgraf, Delaware's Secretary of Health and Social Services (DHSS), served as the keynote speaker for the evening. Landgraf emphasized the importance of bringing together diverse groups to address important health and quality-of-life issues facing the state. She noted that many agencies and divisions in state government are working for the benefit of all Delawareans, and particularly for vulnerable populations, including seniors and those with disabilities. Governor Markell's planning initiatives involve coordinated land use, service delivery, and numerous other benefits. The state is working to ensure future development addresses current and future demographic housing and transportation issues and trends. To accomplish this, DHSS is expanding valued and necessary partnerships with groups such as DAPA and DE-APA. Through these partnerships, creative designs and enhancements are being developed and will enable people to engage with others in their communities.

The state is committed to advancing the community-design model, with emphasis on multi-modal transit and travel options. Overall, Delaware has shown positive trends in reducing

Annual Awards

Along with the Delaware Chapter of the American Planning Association, DAPA co-hosted an Annual Awards Dinner on November 8, 2010, at the Embassy Suites in Newark. The dinner was designed as a platform to honor those who have displayed exceptional public service. The two DAPA awards presented each required demonstration of significant dedication to the field of public service.

The **DAPA Outstanding Student Public Service Award** is presented each year to a graduate student who best exemplifies the caliber of achievement necessary for a successful public service career. The student must be currently enrolled full-time or part-time in a graduate degree program, have completed at least 18 graduate credit hours in that degree program, have a graduate GPA of 3.25 or above, and be a member of the American Society for Public Administration (ASPA) or DAPA.

This year's awardee was University of Delaware grad student **Claire Beck**. Claire graduated in 2008 from Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., with a B.A. in Audio Engineering Technology and a minor in Sociology. After graduation, she worked for the Tennessee Office for Refugees in Nashville, helping to administer the Refugee Cash and Medical Assistance programs to resettlement agencies in the state of Tennessee. Beck is currently pursuing an M.A. in Urban Affairs and Public Policy with a concentration in Urban and Regional Planning. The awards committee stated that part of the reason she was chosen for the award over other candidates was that she stated she would use the monetary award to further her educational interests and attend several conferences in the upcoming year.



The **DAPA Public Service Award** recognizes a public administrator who has made substantial contributions to professional public management and service in Delaware. It is given annually to an individual who displays accomplishments in leadership in public service, shows commitment and dedication to public service, is responsive to current issues, and demonstrates innovation and/or creativity.



DAPA chose long-time planner **Edward O'Donnell** as this year's deserving recipient. O'Donnell has been with the Institute for Public Administration since 1998. He began as a Senior Policy Advisor and is now a Policy Scientist and Instructor, as well as a member of both DAPA and the Delaware Chapter of the American Planning Association (DE-APA). His work

involves transportation planning, comprehensive planning, infrastructure planning, growth management, and environmental protection, as well as educating municipal officials. O'Donnell is also a 2006 recipient of DE-APA's Peter Larson Memorial Achievement Award.

DAPA's outgoing president **Julia O'Hanlon** presented these DAPA tributes and awards.

—by Corinne O'Connor

photos by Mark Deshon

Member Spotlight: Eugene Dvornick

Eugene Dvornick, has been the Town Manager of Georgetown, Del., since 2007. Dvornick has lived in southern Delaware for almost 13 years now, but how does someone not native to the state end up as a Town Manager in Sussex County? A very interesting background is how.

Dvornick grew up as a Navy brat, changing locations every three to four years. He was born in Groton, Conn., at the New London Naval Station Hospital. In succession his family, he moved to Norfolk, Va., back to Groton, Conn., Monterey, Calif., Omaha, Neb., San Diego, Calif., before finally settling down in Springfield, Va., a suburb of Washington, D.C. After graduating from West Springfield High School, Dvornick attended Shepherd University, in Shepherdstown, W.Va., where he earned a B.S. in Accounting with a minor in Information Systems. For graduate school, he attended Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg, Va., where he received a Master of Accountancy, with a concentration in accounting information systems.



Dvornick began working for E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company in 1987, in Wilmington, and left in 1998 to become the Director of Finance at Draper Canning Company, in Milton, Del. In the seven years before becoming Town Manager, he held a few other jobs, all in Sussex County.

What kinds of duties and responsibilities does Dvornick have as Town Manager of Georgetown? Well over a dozen are listed in the Town Charter. The Town Manager is appointed by the mayor and bears the title of Chief Administrative Officer of the town. Since the position is appointed, his term is indefinite, and he may only be removed by a majority vote of the Town Council of Georgetown. The Town Manager is also responsible to the Town Council for the proper administration of the affairs in the Town of Georgetown. The role of Town Manager was created to be nonpartisan; the Town Charter states that the Town Manager is to deal with "matters of expediency and efficiency in the administration of the affairs of the Town placed in his charge," not politics. Some of the areas over which the Town Manager has supervisory responsibility are the streets, gutters, curbs, sidewalks, parks, and other administrative affairs of Georgetown, and all work relating to these areas. It's the "other administrative affairs" part that broadens the scope of the job considerably. Administrative work does not always have guidelines written out, and it is the duty of an administrator in public service to handle a variety of problems and situations.

Outside of his day job, Dvornick is active in many organizations. Aside from being a DAPA council member, he is also a member of DelDOT's Municipal Street Aid Task Force, the City Managers Association of Delaware, and the Georgetown-Millsboro Rotary Club; a councilmember for state of Delaware's Clean Water Advisory Council; on the Board of Directors for First State Community Action Agency and Georgetown Aide, Inc., the Treasurer for the Rehoboth Beach Film Society, and the Deputy Fire Chief for the Milton Fire Department.

Needless to say, Dvornick is a very busy man. By being active in so many organizations, Mr. Dvornick is

helping to maintain the strong communities in and near which he lives. Interaction within these organizations teaches him what works well and what doesn't work so well, on a more personal level. Mr. Dvornick states that "by dealing with issues with a broad view, versus a narrow focus, with the goal of maximizing the benefit to all stakeholders" as well as "being out in the community working with various groups in many capacities," maintaining a sustainable, resilient Georgetown is an achievable goal.

—by Corinne O'Connor

Working Together to Feed More Delawareans

Founded in 1981, the Food Bank of Delaware has been working to alleviate hunger in the community for close to 30 years. The organization has grown from humble beginnings as an organization that served 50 agencies out of a basement in the Northeast State Social Service Center in Wilmington to a statewide hunger-relief organization with operations in both Newark and Milford. Today the Food Bank of Delaware is the only facility in Delaware with the equipment, warehouse, and staff to collect donations from all sectors of the food industry and safely and efficiently redistribute them to those who need it most.



In partnership with 440 hunger-relief program partners, the Food Bank of Delaware distributes more than 7.7 million pounds of food each year to close to 242,000 Delawareans. With close to one in four Delawareans depending on emergency food assistance at one time or another during the year, the support of the community is central to the Food Bank's ability to feed those struggling to make ends meet.

In an effort to ensure that no Delawarean goes without a holiday meal, the Food Bank of Delaware's annual holiday food drive is in full swing. Current numbers indicate that donations are down this year.

"Close to one in four Delawareans depend on emergency food-assistance services," says Food Bank of Delaware President and CEO Patricia Beebe. "This winter I encourage all Delawareans to take a stand against hunger and help our struggling neighbors in need."

The Food Bank is asking for the public's assistance in making sure that no Delawarean goes without a meal this winter. Businesses, schools, faith-based organizations, and other community groups are encouraged to organize food drives throughout the holiday season and winter months.

The Food Bank is in need of:

- Macaroni and cheese
- Canned tuna fish
- Canned soups
- Seasoned stuffing mix
- Peanut butter
- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Canned vegetables (green beans, corn, yams, and peas)
- Canned fruits (pineapple and apple sauce)
- Pancake mix and syrup

Food collected from the food drive will be distributed to people in need through the Food Bank's network of hunger-relief program partners. These hunger-relief agencies include churches, food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, low-income daycare centers, rehabilitation programs, senior centers and more.

Those who collect more than 20 boxes/bags of donated food may make arrangements with the Food Bank of Delaware to have donations picked up. In an effort to save money on transportation costs, the Food Bank asks that donations of fewer than 20 bags/boxes be dropped off at the Food Bank's facilities:

Food Bank of Delaware – Newark
14 Garfield Way
Newark, DE 19713
(302) 292-1305
Hours: M-F: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Food Bank of Delaware – Milford
1040 Mattlind Way
Milford, DE 19963
(302) 424-3301
Hours: M-F: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For more information about hosting a holiday food drive, please visit www.fbd.org/take_action/food-drive.html. Organizations that are interested in serving as a drop-off location for food donations may contact Jim Weir, Operations Director, at jweir@fbd.org or 302-444-8073.

—by Kim Kostas*, Community Relations Manager, Food Bank of Delaware

*Kim was one of the invited panelists at this past spring's DAPA networking meeting.

Why Public Administrators and Planners Should Love Historic Preservation

Dear Reader, I can hear you groaning now! Historically, as it were, the relationship between public administrators, planners, and preservationists, when not downright hostile, hasn't always been that warm. Preservationists' attempts to save buildings and larger landscapes are often seen as an obstruction—impediments to progress.

For the time being, I ask you to lay aside your preconceived notions and hear my argument that preservation is not the enemy of progress but the face of progress in planning, public administration, and local and state government.

I am not going to deny that we preservationists can be difficult and slow things down. Indeed, as preservationists we are proud of our role in resisting some change and preserving important cultural resources. For example, it was protest over and resistance to the great urban-renewal clearance projects of the 1950s and 1960 that helped pass the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Without this protest and resistance, Mount Vernon, the French Quarter, and much of Charleston would all be gone, and Delaware would look very different.

Why are planners and public administrators suspicious of preservation, and, secondly, what can and does preservation contribute?

The suspicion of preservation lies in:

- **The misconception of history**

Many think of “history” as being fixed and about really old stuff, yet history is newer than you think—for example, a 50-year-old building can be considered for the National Register of Historic Places, and as time marches on, more things get historic as they grow older. More importantly, we learn that our older views of what is historically significant are limited, as we witness the growing appreciation of twentieth century history and things associated with the automobile.

- **The misconception of historic preservation**

Many think preservation is about preserving the great buildings associated with recognized periods of the past, like the Colonial-period buildings of New Castle or Odessa. Preservation is also about preserving those structures and landscapes that represent very important trends, periods, or a type of architecture in our society at the local as well as state and national levels.

When most people think about “preservation,” they think about a building that has been restored to its original use, such as a house museum like the Amstel house in New Castle. This is only one type of preservation. The best preservation, and the goal of preservationists, is adaptive use, or maintaining continual use for contemporary activities in historic buildings, keeping them a “living” part of the working community. Consider that one of your favorite restaurants is probably an historic building.

Preservation contributes to:

- **Economic development**

Some think of preservation and economic development as opposites; yet, increasingly, preservation is a key element in local economic-development strategies. Specifically, there are three areas where this is exemplified—The Main Street Program, Heritage Tourism, and rehabilitation of historic buildings.

The Main Street Program was established in the 1980s, to help revitalize the main streets of towns and small cities through adaptive use of historic buildings. This program has proven to be the most successful local economic-development program in the country with thousand towns and cities involved. Specifically, Delaware has an active and successful Main Street Program with eight communities currently participating. There is no form of economic development that is more cost effective and successful at leveraging resources than the Main Street Program.

As the economy has shifted from manufacturing to services with a greater emphasis on tourism, the historic quality of places is critical to the growing popularity of heritage tourism. Heritage visitors spend more per day, stay longer, and visit more places than do tourists in general.

- **Progress**

While the basic goal of preservation is to maintain our historic heritage for present and future generations, that goal has taken on a new urgency, as we must create a more sustainable society. Sustainability is about conserving resources and doing things in more efficient ways. Historic buildings contain what are called embodied materials and energy and they also reflect irreplaceable skills and craftsmanship. Smart-Growth Programs, which focus on already built up areas, are preservation programs. New Urbanism is predicated on the notion that historic urbanism of the nineteenth and early twentieth century is the most sustainable.

Moreover, from a planning perspective, the population of the United States is expected to grow by 100 million people in the next 30 years. To accommodate this, we must double the size of our built environment, and we simply can't afford the cycle of demolition and new construction as the preferred means of development. We must reuse and continue to use as many existing buildings as possible. Historic buildings, which are sounder than recent construction, are the best and most flexible candidates for reuse. Thus, while you may think of preservation as the restoration of special buildings, in the face of our combined growth and sustainability challenges, it is becoming a necessity to find compatible continuing uses for as many buildings as possible. So, as a planner or administrator, you will find yourself needing to save buildings because it is the responsible thing to do.

Also critical to our present economic downturn, preservation is countercyclical. At a time when new construction is way down, folks can't afford new homes, and builders don't have a market, rehabilitation is doing well.

So as a planner or public administrator, you may not learn to love preservationists, but perhaps you can drop some preconceptions and see how our goals are converging with the need to move to a better-planned, more sustainable society.

—by David Ames, Center for Historic Architecture and Design, University of Delaware