

**Current State of Planning Got You On Edge...?
Have we got a line-up of keynote speakers for you!**

In what is among the most uncertain of times for planners in our beautiful state, the 2011 APA Florida Conference Host Committee has put together a tremendous set of keynote speakers with the experience and ideas to inspire us, and help address this year's very timely theme: What Do We Do Now?

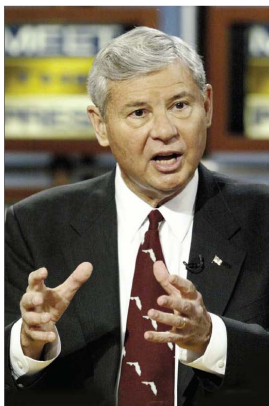
On Thursday morning, during the opening Plenary Session, we'll be joined by Ellen Dunham-Jones, recent co-author (with June Williamson) of the book *Retrofitting Suburbia; Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs*. Ms. Dunham-Jones is an award-winning architect, professor



at the Georgia Institute of Technology and a leading authority on suburban redevelopment. She teaches and researches contemporary architectural urban design studios and theory. Her work has received significant media attention in print, television, and online outlets. Her book, *Retrofitting Suburbia*, was featured in *Time Magazine's* March 23, 2009 cover story, "10 Ideas Changing the World Right Now" and is the subject of her 2010 TED talk. The American Association of Publishers chose the book for a PROSE award, winning the 2009 architecture and urban planning category for professional and scholarly excellence.

She serves on several advisory boards, is Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Congress for the New Urbanism and recently chaired CNU 18, "New Urbanism: Rx for Healthy Places" in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. She received undergraduate and graduate degrees in architecture from Princeton University and taught at UVA and MIT before joining Georgia Tech's faculty to serve as Director from 2001-2009. Her insights and their potential for application in Florida should be of particular interest as communities come to terms with sprawling development patterns in the face of fewer available resources needed to serve them.

At lunch on Thursday, we are in for a real treat! We will be joined by former Florida Governor and U.S. Senator Bob Graham. Dedicated to public service, Senator Graham served as governor of Florida for two terms and served in the United States Senate for 18 years. As Governor and Senator, he was committed to bringing his colleagues together behind programs that served the broadest public interest. Senator Graham was recently appointed by the President to serve as Co-Chair of the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil



Spill and Offshore Drilling. The Commission's task was to examine the root causes of the disaster and to develop recommendations for guarding against, and mitigating the impact of, future oil spills associated with offshore drilling. Senator Graham also recently served as a Commissioner on the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, established by Congress to examine the global and domestic causes of the recent financial crisis.

Senator Graham is the author of a recent book about civic participation, entitled "America: The Owner's Manual." The goal of the book is to provide ordinary people with the means and motivation to go out and influence decision makers in order to achieve positive change in their neighborhoods and communities. Senator Graham has also been a regular contributor to National Public Radio's Morning Edition, a frequent guest on CNN, Fox

and MSNBC news, and has authored numerous opinion editorials for newspapers. Senator Graham serves as the chair of the Board of Overseers of the Graham Center for Public Service. The depth and breadth of his experiences, and point of view they have crafted in our senior statesman should provide wisdom and perspective on Florida's current traumas.

Lunchtime on Friday we will hear from the Urban Land Institute's Ed McMahon. Mr. McMahon holds the Charles E. Fraser Chair on Sustainable Development at the Urban Land Institute in Washington, DC where he is nationally known as a thought provoking speaker and leading authority on topics related to sustainable development, land conservation, smart growth, and historic preservation. As the Senior Fellow for Sustainable Development, Mr. McMahon leads



ULI's worldwide efforts to conduct research and educational activities related to environmentally sensitive development policies and practices. He is the author or co-author of 15 books and over 200 articles, and has drafted numerous local land use plans and ordinances. His books include: *Conservation Communities: Creating Value with Nature, Open Space and Agriculture*; *Developing Sustainable Planned Communities*, *Green Infrastructure: Connecting Landscape and Communities*, *Land Conservation Finance*, and *Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities*.

Before joining the ULI in 2004, Mr. McMahon spent 14 years as the Vice President and Director of Land Use Planning for The Conservation Fund in Arlington, Virginia, and is also the co-founder and former President of Scenic America, a national non-profit devoted to protecting America's scenic landscapes. Before that, he taught law and public policy at Georgetown University Law Center for nine years, and served in the U.S. Army, both at home and abroad. In his years of work he has organized successful efforts to acquire and protect urban parkland, wilderness areas, and other conservation properties, activities that have been at the heart of planning and conservation in Florida for decades.

At brunch on Saturday, we'll kick-start the weekend with a keynote by John Landis, the Crossways Professor and Department Chair of City and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Landis teaches courses in urban economics, property development, land use planning, and green development, among others. His research interests span a variety of urban development topics including growth management, infill housing, and the geography of urban growth.



Professor Landis is currently completing a National Science Foundation-funded project to model, forecast, and develop alternative spatial scenarios of U.S. population and employment patterns and their impacts on travel demand, habitat loss, and water use through 2050. His most recent work, "Rethinking Federal Housing Policy," is a comprehensive look backward and forward at federal homeownership, affordable housing, and community development policy, and published in the Summer 2010 issue of the *Journal of the American Planning Association*. Prior to arriving at Penn in 2007, Professor Landis was on the planning faculties of the University of California, Berkeley, Georgia Tech, and the University of Rhode Island, having received his Bachelor of Science Degree from MIT in 1978 and his PhD in City

and Regional Planning from UC Berkeley in 1983.

For a few days this September, each of our stellar speakers will share their insights and research, describe leading-edge trends and their local applicability, and hopefully inspire each of us to continue planning for the future of our communities. Because that is what we need to do now.