

A Celebration of MURP Accreditation and Mark Hafen's Retirement

USF's Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) program recently earned accreditation by the Planning Accreditation Board. This landmark achievement recognizes the program's quality and furthers our mission of preparing future planners to meet the needs of a diverse society and providing community engaged research that makes a positive difference in Tampa Bay communities and beyond.



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA
College of Arts & Sciences

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS



NOVEMBER 17, 2021

Special Guests



KIMBERLY OVERMAN

Hillsborough County Commission, Vice-Chair, Countywide, District 7

A 37-year resident of the Tampa Bay area, Kimberly Overman was elected to the County Commission in 2018. Kimberly earned a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Resource Economics Degree from the University of Maryland, raised two children and launched and ran several successful businesses. She is a Certified Financial Planner and former CEO of a fee-only registered investment advisory firm and owner of The Heights Exchange, LLC, a commercial space in Seminole Heights.

She also re-created a business chamber of commerce for the Tampa urban core. A long-time advocate of smart planning, economic growth, strong families, sustainable communities, and the importance of education, Commissioner Overman has a long history of public service volunteerism and community involvement. The Commissioner currently serves on numerous boards and councils, and is Chair of the Affordable Housing Advisory Board, Commission on Human Trafficking, and Transportation Management Area Leadership Group.



JOHN C. O'LEARY III

John C. O'Leary III is a Mexican American jazz pianist & neuroscientist from the Yucatan peninsula. Born to a Mexican concert pianist mother, John started piano lessons at age three and left everything behind to come to America in 1998, where he studied jazz piano performance and chemistry at the University of South Florida. There, he started the highly acclaimed jazz group La Lucha. John's upcoming solo album, *The Sundering* (Arbors Records, 2022), features guests Shaun Martin & Dick Hyman.

John is the recipient of the "Individual Artist Award" by the Arts Council of Hillsborough County. La Lucha was awarded Creative Loafing's "Best of the Bay Jazz Ensemble" in 2013, 2014 & 2015. John has toured nationally and internationally including performances at Umbria Jazz Festival and Jazz à Juan. John is a Yamaha Artist.

In addition to his award-winning musical career, John attained a PhD in Neuroscience at the University of South Florida College of Medicine and was a recipient of the Ruth L. Kirschstein fellowship from the National Institute of Neurological Disease and Stroke.

Agenda

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and Mark Hafen's Retirement

WELCOME & CELEBRATING ACCREDITATION

ROBIN ERSING

School Director and Associate Professor, School of Public Affairs, USF

ERIC EISENBERG

Dean and Professor of Communication, College of Arts and Sciences, USF

KIMBERLY OVERMAN

Hillsborough County Commissioner

A BIG THANKS TO MURP SUPPORTERS

EVANGELINE LINKOUS

Program Director and Associate Professor, Master of Urban and Regional Planning, USF

ROBIN ERSING

School Director and Associate Professor, School of Public Affairs, USF

Recognizing Ellis Blanton for establishing the James E. Blanton III Veterans Scholarship

FATIMA ELKOTT

President, Student Planning Organization, USF

Recognizing Mark Bentley for establishing the Mark Bentley APA Sun Coast Section Scholarship

FOSTERING DIVERSITY IN THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONS

LEROY MOORE

Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Tampa Housing Authority

CELEBRATING MARK HAFEN

Recognizing Mark Hafen for establishing the Mark R. Hafen MURP Diversity Scholarship

LAURA EVERITT

Transit and Rail Planning Manager, VHB

STEPHEN BENSON

Chief Planner, City of Tampa

BON VOYAGE MARK!

ELIZABETH STROM

Associate Professor, Master of Urban and Regional Planning, USF

MARK HAFEN



MARK R. HAFEN

Guest of Honor

Mark R. Hafen recently retired as Assistant Director and Master Instructor in the School of Public Affairs at the University of South Florida in Tampa, where he directed the Master of Urban and Regional Planning (MURP) program, with an emphasis on climate change adaptation, and urban environmental policy and planning.

He holds a B.S. in Business Logistics from Penn State University, as well as an M.A. in Geography and a Ph.D. in Marine Science (Geology), both from USF. He has professional experience in land use planning, and has lived in the Tampa Bay region since 1986.

He has co-authored a book (with A.C. Hine, D.P. Chambers, T.D. Clayton, and G.T. Mitchum), *Sea Level Rise in Florida: Science, Impacts and Options* (2016, University Press of Florida), and actively serves as a member of the Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel, the Florida Water and Climate Alliance, and the USF Center for Brownfields Research and Redevelopment.



THANK YOU

This event was organized to express our appreciation for you--the community that supports our students' success. We are so grateful that you were able to join us this evening to celebrate accreditation—an achievement that Mark Hafen began and got to see come to fruition. USF MURP thanks you and hopes you will stay engaged with us as we grow and evolve.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:



ELLIS BLANTON
Professor Emeritus
USF MUMA College of Business

For more information on how to support MURP's operating needs or scholarships for students, please contact **Evangeline Linkous**, at elinkous@usf.edu or (813) 974-7982, or visit giving.usf.edu to make a gift to one of the following funds online:

MARK R. HAFEN MURP DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP (#420223)

URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING PROGRAM FUND (#420117)

MARK BENTLEY APA SUN COAST SECTION SCHOLARSHIP (#420194)

JAMES E. BLANTON III VETERANS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP (#426092)

