SUSTAINABLE SMART CITIES RESEARCH CENTER

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM

2012 Highlights

Board of Trustees Approval of the UAB Sustainable Smart Cities Research Center (SSCRC)

Approved by the University of Alabama Board of Trustees in February 2012, the new UAB Sustainable Smart Cities Research Center fosters cross-disciplinary research, training, and outreach that integrate health, socio-economic impacts, and infrastructure design for the purpose of developing innovative solutions for sustainable smart cities and communities. Specifically, the Center brings together multidisciplinary faculty with diverse expertise to develop tools and methods for sustainable infrastructure design and processes. This cross-disciplinary innovation positions the Center to be an agent of change in public policy, to impact human interaction with the environment and to shift the paradigm of urban infrastructure to one that is economically affluent, environmentally responsible, and socially equitable.

Inaugural UAB Sustainable Smart Cities Symposium February 16, 2012

Local, national, and international experts in green design and transportation, intelligent technologies, environmental sustainability, health and livability, economic development, and government and public policy joined forces on Thursday, February 16, at the inaugural UAB Sustainable Smart Cities Symposium which highlighted smart growth initiatives in Latin America and other parts of the world to a diverse crowd of close to 300 people. Smart cities depend on the commitment of city government, the business community, academia, and engaged citizens. The event served as the kick-off for the new UAB Sustainable Smart Cities Research Center which brings together researchers from engineering, business, medicine, and other fields to seek innovative solutions to complex sustainability issues in Birmingham and around the world. Birmingham Mayor William Bell presented opening remarks and discussed the City's successes and future plans for developing a smarter Birmingham.

Keynote speakers and panel discussion included:
Cathy Crenshaw, President and CEO of Sloss Real Estate; Oscar E. Diaz, Co-founder and President of Global Solutions Dynamic Plus (GSDPlus); Frank Franklin, MD, PhD, Professor Emeritus of the UAB School of Public Health; Manuel Olivera, Regional Director of the C40 Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI); Enrique Peñalosa, Former Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia; and Dietmar Offenhuber of MIT SENSEable Labs, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The daylong symposium was hosted jointly by the **UAB School of Engineering, the UAB School of Business, the UAB School of Medicine, and the UAB Minority Health & Health Disparities Research Center**. Sponsors included Alabama Power and the City of Birmingham. Funding agencies included the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, and the National Science Foundation. Slides and video presentation are available at www.UABSSC.org.

International and Local collaborations

Research

University transportation centers funded at UAB to study sustainable infrastructure and livable communities.

UAB is part of two funded National University Transportation Consortia (UTC) to study sustainable infrastructure and livable communities. Through this UAB is receiving a cost share of $2 million of which a significant portion will be used in sustainability research projects. The consortia works with 8 major academic institutions including Georgia Tech, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, Florida International University, University of North Carolina, North Carolina State, Mississippi State.

STAFFORDSHIRE UNIVERSITY

Memorandum of Understanding with Staffordshire University in the United Kingdom

UAB signed a MOU with Staffordshire University to work with its Regeneration Hub for Sustainable Futures LAB housed at the new £30 million Science and Technology Center. Under this agreement, UAB and Staffordshire University will collaborate on research and training programs and apply jointly to funding opportunities in Europe and the USA. The MOU will be extended to the City of Stoke-on-Trent, selected as £50k to undertake a feasibility study on becoming a future cities demonstrator site.

New Medina

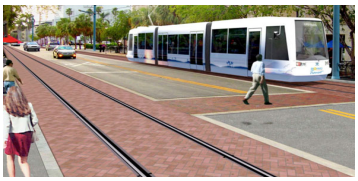
THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

'New Medina' Project

The New Medina is a three-year project in the framework of the EU-funded program aiming at developing an integrated approach for sustainable cities with the focus on improving local capacity-building. The Egyptian Housing Building Research Center (HBRC) hosted the international symposium in September 2012 and Dr. Fouad Fouad, Director of UAB SSCRC was invited as keynote speaker. Through the New Medina Project a new city is being built in the desert to serve as test bed for sustainable construction materials and systems.

Community Outreach

Birmingham Circulator Roundtable and Steering Committee



On Tuesday, August 14th, 2012 a group of 30 individuals representing different sectors in Birmingham, attended a presentation by officers from LOCUS/ Smart Growth America, a national coalition of real estate developers and investors who advocate for sustainable, walkable urban development in metropolitan areas.

Chris Leinberger, President of LOCUS; Responsible Real Estate Developers and Investors; Geoffrey Anderson, President and CEO-Smart Growth America; and Roger Millar, Director, Smart Growth America Leadership Institute, presented successful case studies on the economic development impact of Circulator systems in Portland, and Washington, DC.

Following this event, a Birmingham Circulator Steering Committee has been meeting to advance this initiative.

Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Birmingham Mayor's Office

The UAB SSCRC received a request from the Birmingham City Mayor William Bell to provide knowledge and intellectual support for the Mayor's councils, commissions, and advisory boards on environment, smart cities and livability. To provide research on environmental, energy, smart cities, and livability issues, and to support, the Mayor's initiatives on recycling, energy efficiency, smart cities development, and livability.

Training

UAB Certificates in Sustainability – Emphasis in Smart Cities

The UAB SSCRC is currently offering Certificate Programs in Sustainability through the UAB School of Engineering in the USA and Egypt.
New Certificates in Sustainability are being designed in collaboration with the School of Business – Industrial Distribution for the Summer 2013.
Additionally, the UAB SSCRC is planning the development of a *Diploma in Sustainable Smart Cities* to offer comprehensive training in the major aspects of sustainable intelligent urban development.

International Accreditation

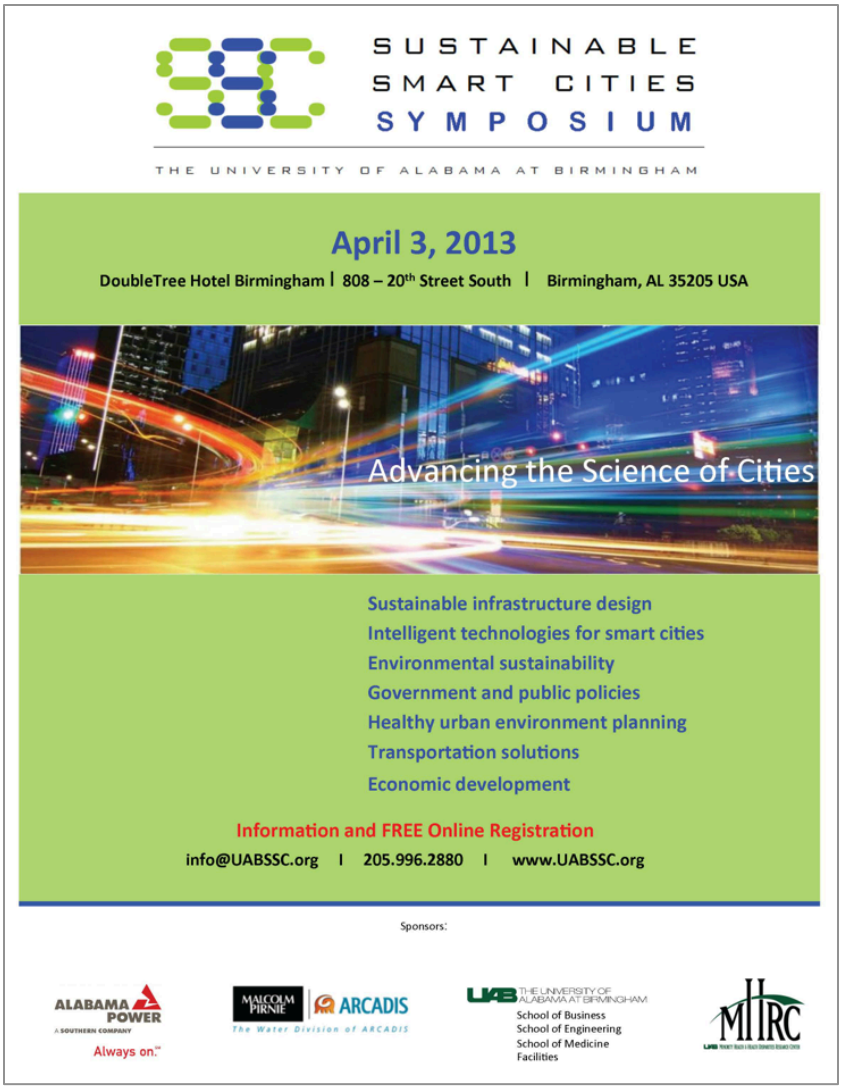
The International Accreditation Service (IAS) and the International Code Council (ICC) are working with the UAB SSCRC to develop a new "Certificate in Sustainable Construction". The ICC is currently developing a new accreditation service for 'building commissioning agencies'. The 'building commissioning' will require individuals with specific training.

The International Code Council (ICC) will develop a Guideline for Building Commissioning for facilitating increased efficiency in commercial buildings. A committee of global industry leaders and technical experts will be appointed to develop the guideline. Commissioning is a new process required by the International Green Construction Code (IGCC), CalGreen, and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.

UAB Health Disparities Research Symposium
Seminar Series:
The Built Environment: Health and Livability of Cities
February 27-8, 2013

The UAB SSCRC in collaboration with the Schools of Business, Medicine, Engineering will host plenary sessions and panel discussions with national and international experts.

Confirmed Keynote speaker, Dr. Hugh Barton, Professor of Planning, Health and Sustainability Director for Healthy Urban Environments Planning and Architecture (formerly with World Health Organization). He is author on several books on urban planning, health and sustainability, among them *'Shaping Neighbourhoods, for local health and global sustainability*'.



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