While on Sabbatical I was able to explore areas of professional and personal interest in the environmental planning field. My focus was on Transportation Planning, and in “New Town Planning.” My specific objective was to support my teaching and classes by visiting and photographing successful planning efforts. After conducting a significant amount of research during the early part of my one semester sabbatical, I decided to visit the two leading cities in Europe in terms of their transportation planning, Copenhagen and Amsterdam. I also decided to visit and look closely at “Garden City” and “New Towns” planning in the United Kingdom. (I also included one new town near Amsterdam). My European travels proved to be all that I had hoped for. I returned with over a thousand digital pictures to be used especially in my Transportation Planning and Urban Design classes. Below are a few of the highlights of my educational travels.

**Transportation Planning**

I visited Copenhagen and Amsterdam to view how both cities handle transportation in these cities known for their de-emphasis on auto travel modes, while promoting bicycle travel. Both cities have very high rates of bicycle ridership (60 percent of all travel in Amsterdam is by bicycle). I was able to photograph the different ways that each city accommodates this form of personal travel. It was interesting to see how
the two cities used paint colors for the bike lanes, and changes in elevation and barriers to separate bicycles from automobile traffic.

I also viewed various structures used for bicycle parking and storage. For example, in Amsterdam I photographed a four story parking structure for bicycles that is located near the main train station and near a site where ferries bring bicyclists to the city from nearby towns. There was also a barge in the harbor by the train station (see photo above) that had been converted for bicycle parking with double-decker bicycle racks!

In Amsterdam I also had the opportunity to view how various forms of public transportation were integrated with one another. For example, the “light rail” and bus terminals were situated directly in front of the main train station for (“heavy rail”) that brings commuters from distant suburbs and the airport to the city center. Commuters can easily transfer to the “light rail” trains and buses that move throughout the city center.
I was able to capture all of these sights in photographs that I uploaded into iPhoto. I then created a number of slide shows that I used in my Urban Design I: The Urban Form course this past semester.
New Town Planning

My travels to the U.K. were specifically to observe and photograph British New Towns (towns started from scratch). I visited the famous Garden Cities of Letchworth (1903) and Welwyn (1920, see photo above). My approach for all of the towns was to begin in the city center, then to move outward to business and industrial districts, and finally to the broad range of residential neighborhoods and open space preserves. Letchworth and Welwyn, designed by Ebenezer Howard, became models for the British New Towns movement after World War II. This government program was made necessary by the great need for housing and industrial rebuilding after the destruction during the war. I also visited five of the British New Towns: Cumbernauld and Livingston in Scotland, and Stevenage, Hemel Hempstead and Milton Keynes near London. (I also visited the new town of Java Island near Amsterdam, quite interesting for its proximity and transportation connections to that city).

I took as many as eighty photos in each of these seven British towns (and in Java City as well. When I returned, I uploaded them into IPhoto and turned them into slide shows. I was able to use the slide shows of the New Towns in guest lectures in
classes of my colleagues, including Introduction to Planning, and Planning for Sustainable Communities.

Other Sabbatical Accomplishments

I spent a good deal of the last part of my Sabbatical dealing with the wealth of pictures I took in my European travels. Organizing them even in IPhoto proved to be a greater task than I anticipated. Indeed, I learned the ins and outs of IPhoto!! Unfortunately, the urgency of getting the slide shows all together by the start of classes in the Spring interfered with my ability to finish my paper on the importance of Charles Lindblom’s famous article, “The Science of Muddling Through,” on the 50th anniversary of its publication. I was able to make significant progress on the necessary and extensive background research, and continue to move toward completion of the writing.

In conclusion, I returned from my Sabbatical experiences with new material and photos, and a level of enthusiasm that helped me have one of my most satisfying semesters of teaching. The most important outcome of anyone’s Sabbatical was achieved. I came back with recharged batteries (see photo below)!!