

# INTERPLAN

Publication of the APA International Division

No. 76 August 2004

Mixing travel with education is typical of Division members. We frequently visit new places or revisit familiar ones, while learning from friends and planning colleagues around the world. Whether you travel for work or your own scholarly research, study abroad, join the Peace Corps, or meet through great APA events like the annual National Conference and treks with your local chapters, there is a lot to talk about...and a lot to look forward to!

## **International Division Annual Business Meeting**

The International Division held its Annual Business Meeting on April 27, 2004 during the APA National Conference in Washington, DC. There was a great turnout both in the number of members attending and in the energy and ideas generated during the meeting. The meeting began with introductions of the newly elected, and Christopher Silver presented the purpose of the meeting: to discuss how the new leadership could develop a work plan responsive to the members' needs. Chris emphasized the desire to define the organization's mission, invigorate the Division, and energize the membership.

The main agenda items covered during the meeting included the International Exchange Program, the United Nations NGO Human Settlements Caucus, the Division Member Survey, *Interplan*, and recommendations for improving Division services.

Matt Flynn, Coordinator of the International Exchange Program, provided an overview of the program which matches planners from the U.S., Britain, and Ireland for two- to three-week professional exchanges. Applications are available online. There is the possibility of expanding the program to Australia and New Zealand; Canada and Latin America would also be natural partners. There were suggestions that the program could be strengthened by providing more information on how to create a more structured exchange that encourages strong professional development.

Dick May, founder of the International Division, spoke about his involvement with the NGO Human Settlements Caucus, which meets in New York. The APA, through the International Division, desires a continued presence with the caucus, and Dick seeks a replacement.

Paul Wack provided an overview of the member survey conducted earlier this year. Survey details are included in this issue of *Interplan* (see page 7). An open discussion of the Division's newsletter, *Interplan*, was conducted. *Interplan* is generally recognized as a valuable resource and the best way of communicating with members. There was discussion of doing an electronic newsletter in addition or instead of the printed version; many members seemed interested, but no final decision was reached. Other divisions have begun this to conserve resources. (*Continued on Page 3*)

### **Grants for Local Networking!**

The International Division will support local gatherings of members (and potential members) to explore issues of interest in international planning. These gatherings can take different forms, such as a lecture/talk by a notable individual or group engaged in international planning. Or the grant can be used to organize a discussion group to bring together members and others around a specific theme. The Division will make available, as funds allow, a modest assistance grant (not to exceed \$500). It is expected that Division funds will be used for costs such as: advertising, refreshments, material preparation, and possibly some portion of local travel costs for an invited speaker (but not for honoraria/speaker fees). A brief proposed budget is required. Only current Division members are eligible to submit a proposal. A brief report to the Division about the activity and outcome is required after the event.

Send proposals, or address further questions to: Christopher Silver, Chair, APA International Division, fax (217) 244-1717 or email: <a href="mailto:silver@uiuc.edu">silver@uiuc.edu</a>.



### AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION

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#### Interplan

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### Hawai'i Congress of Planning Officials & APA International Conference: September 8-10, 2004

The Hawai'i Chapter of the American Planning Association is proud to announce the Hawai'i Congress of Planning Officials and American Planning Association International Conference 2004. The Conference will be held from September 8-10 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Waikiki and will provide international attendees an opportunity to increase their knowledge of tourism planning.

Topics will include sustainable tourism; tourism planning in Hawaii; and land use planning as it relates to planning for visitor accommodations. Conference attendees will be able to view exhibits, listen to speakers, attend breakout sessions, and participate in "mobile workshops" (to visit projects and learn about them up-close). Proposed "mobile workshops" include a trip around Waikiki to examine the substantial redevelopment efforts; a visit to downtown Honolulu, which is undergoing a heritage planning effort; and forays into Maui and other Hawaii islands, to visit excellent examples of first-, second- and third-generation resorts. In addition, events will include first-day fishing, golf, and tennis tournaments, as well as enjoyable evening social functions.

Visit http://parking.lava.net/~apahi/for current information and details!

## Global Thinking, Local Planning: International Views on Environmental Planning and Design

The 2003-2004 academic year at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo was marked by the College of Architecture and Environmental Design's (CAED) symposium "Global Thinking, Local Planning: International Views on Environmental Planning and Design."

Six speakers presented their projects and perspectives on environmental planning, sustainability, globalization, and design at different scales and for multiple publics. An increasingly global economy, open border policies, and rapidly changing urban societies have turned sustainability and multiculturalism into fundamental issues in international and California planning and design. Symposium participants raised many important questions and fostered a rich discussion among faculty and students.

The first speaker was Javier de Mesones, a leading planner and urban designer from Spain, a university professor in Madrid, President of Honour of the Spanish Association of Planners, and former president of the International Society of City and Regional Planners. Javier talked about the city of the future and the issues facing planners, from ethical and political to economic and social.

(Continued on Page 5)

### Become a Peace Corps Urban Planning Volunteer!

New Urban Planning graduates as well as practicing professionals interested in international development should consider exploring opportunities with the U.S. Peace Corps service.

Peace Corps Urban Planning Volunteers work closely with local planners and administrators primarily in central South America. They provide technical assistance to address issues including: housing, potable water systems, sewage disposal, zoning, and land-use controls. They may also assist in developing accurate data for decision makers, conducting community assessments, analyzing resources, and providing alternate models if applicable. Other Peace Corps projects include self-help housing, infrastructure planning, economic development, municipal management, and urban community development. (Continued on Page 5)

# New Zealand's Search for Sustainability: Ideas for Local Planning in the U.S. By Paul Wack, pwack@calpoly.edu

New Zealand, or *Aotearoa* ("the land of the long white cloud") to the native Maori, is a small island nation of 4 million people and 47 million sheep, located across the Tasman Sea from Australia. Since the 1980s, New Zealand has been in a continuous mode of land use planning reform. In 1991, as part of these efforts, the Resource Management Act (RMA) was passed to better manage the country's natural and physical resources. In the fall of 2001, I was in New Zealand on sabbatical to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RMA.

One aspect of the RMA calls for local governments to prepare "district plans," which are equal to our comprehensive plans at the county and city levels. After meeting with national officials, local planners, and citizens to discuss the successes and failures of the RMA, I discovered that the results are mixed, at best. To date, about a third of the district plans have been certified by the national Ministry of the Environment, a third have been submitted in draft form and are awaiting certification, and the remaining are pending final action of the Environment Court.

However, the RMA is a grand experiment that has only been in effect for 10 years. I believe that more time is needed to learn from mistakes and successes before final judgment on its effectiveness can be passed. In time, it may evolve into a model for local planning across the globe.

During my most recent visit to New Zealand (summer 2003), I learned that the Local Government Act (LGA) was recently revised. Local governments were given more power to administer their planning programs. I also discovered through numerous interviews that the LGA reforms were not connected very well to the RMA, generating some confusion about land use planning and environmental factors.

In addition to the promise of the RMA and LGA reforms, New Zealanders are moving forward with a unique effort to bridge "quality of life" issues with the growing interest in local community sustainable indicators. In March of 2001, six of the nation's largest cities worked together to produce a report on the state of the quality of life in New Zealand. It was a remarkable effort to assess the well being of a nation becoming increasing urban while remaining traditionally rural in many respects. A new report has been submitted (now including 8 cities) and can be found on their website <a href="https://www.bigcities.govt.nz">www.bigcities.govt.nz</a>.

The major benefit of this effort has been the improved relationship between the national government and the local cities in working toward the goal of improving the urban environment of New Zealand. New Zealanders are very concerned about the future of their cities and are seeking ways to address urban issues that are well known in our country, but mostly ignored. They understand that in order to achieve a good quality of life and a sustainable society, the issues confronting their urban communities most be addressed. After all, they are a small island nation with limited places to escape.

My work in New Zealand has informed my teaching at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. As a founding member of the "Sustainability Movement" in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, I have been able to include New Zealand's efforts as positive examples in my lectures on green plans and sustainable communities. Moreover, my goal of generating a long-term program to encourage student interaction between our nations is starting to take shape. It is very important that our students understand that we are part of a larger community of nations and people, which I deem critical to the future sustainability of our own nation.

[Editors Note: Paul is returning to New Zealand this summer and will keep us up-to-date.]

#### (Business Meeting continued)

The meeting then moved to general recommendations for improving member services. Ideas suggested ranged from regional conferences, to partnering with major actors in international development, employment in international development, a team project in a developing country, awareness of planning issues and the APA among students of international affairs, coordination with different APA divisions, student scholarships, increased connection with town planners worldwide, a membership roster, and a listserve. A number of the ideas suggested during the meeting are being initiated by the Executive Committee. (Read about "Grants for Local Networking" on page 1.)

In sum, the meeting was a success. There was a lot of enthusiasm from both the members and the Executive Committee. The job now is to develop a plan of action and put some of these great ideas into practice.

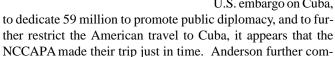
# The International Division of the Northern California Chapter of the APA Visits Cuba



In October of 2003, 10 U.S. APA planners and two guests traveled to Cuba to learn about the efforts of planners in Cuba and the country itself. The trip idea was born when the group, whom two years ago started gathering monthly to discuss international planning activities, realized they were most interested in traveling and learning about the efforts of planners in other countries. Jennifer Anderson, director of the NCCAPA group and the trip leader, offered an inside scoop on the trip.

Anderson says, "We decided to pick a place where it would be hard to go on our own, and where we would have a better experience because of

being in a group." With President Bush's recent announcement to tighten the 40-year old U.S. embargo on Cuba,



mented that, "We really wanted to see Castro's Cuba because we thought that there would be a very big social and economic shift when Castro was no longer in control."

The group's itinerary, which included tours of famous sites and discussions with local architects and planners, provided an extensive view of the island with stops in Havana,

the Bay of Pigs, Trinidad, and the coastal city of Santa Clara. Overall the group felt welcomed by the citizens in Cuba and upon arrival in Trinidad they were surprised by a community sponsored block party complete with

dancing, and refreshments! The flourishing arts scene, conveyed by bands playing on street corners and the many beautiful sculptures and paintings, pleasantly surprised Anderson and other group members as well.



Havana-Monk Hotel Jazz Musicians



Cathedral Plaza

Havana-Waterfront 19 Exposed Stairwell (still in use daily)

They learned that government-sponsored architects and engineers are primarily responsible for urban planning efforts in the country. As government funding is meager, their focus is on environmental issues facing the country, better exports and import substitution, and dealing with the lack of resources to repair crumbling sewer and water infrastructure.

Anderson described how sad it

was to see the many beautiful buildings just crumbling because materials to repair them are scarce. "You can't even go to the store and buy a can of paint!" said Anderson.



Plaza Antigua Renovations

Much of the urban revitalization in Cuba is the result of private ventures and grassroots efforts. A joint venture German and Cuban brewpub the group visited, and the hotel managed by Spain where they stayed, were two examples of the private development beginning to take shape. A small group of government autonomous architects/planners in Santa Clara gave a presentation on their work. Much of the neighborhood work has taken the form of locally organized clean up. Anderson mentioned that when the NCCAPA group asked for a copy of the Santa Clara group's Power Point presentation and they admitted they were unable to make a copy, the scarcity of resources became quite evident.

When asked if the experience of visiting Cuba had changed her thinking about the work she does as a planner here in the U.S., Anderson responded, "I think we are spoiled rotten as planners here in the U.S. We waste money right and left, and we ought to find ways to focus on what really needs to be done instead of spending money on the extra stuff like fancy Power Point presentations, and video simulated fly-by media material." It is clear from Anderson's lively description, that the NCCAPA trip to Cuba was an emotional and thought-provoking experience for the entire group. When U.S. and Cuban relations improve, the NCCAPA international group hopes to bring the architects/ planners they met in Cuba to California to share with them their planning knowledge and hospitality. Since the Cuba trip was so successful, the group is already working to plan their next trip to Vietnam in 2005.

Contact Jennifer Anderson, AICP and the NCCAPA for further information at (510) 494-4518 or anderjenn@comcast.net

#### (Global Thinking continued)

Architect-urbanist Marcia Junqueira, a professor at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, discussed the Brazilian environmental planning system and focused on community opposition efforts to halt several projects in Rio de Janeiro. Werner Brog, a sociologist and principal of SocialData in Germany, presented his individualized marketing approach for diminishing a city population's reliance on private vehicles and increasing the use of transit alternatives. Werner delivered the results of his work in cities in Europe, Australia, and the U.S., and demonstrated the efficacy of this approach — notably the enduring effects on behavior patterns.

During the second week of the symposium, Richard Stevens – planning director of AEI-CASC Consulting, professor at Cal Poly Pomona, and vice-president of the Central California APA chapter – spoke about his experiences in Japan, Europe, and Latin America. He also discussed globalization and a number of international planning issues and noted organizations that might appeal to Californian planners and designers. Iffat Qamar, an environmental planner originally from Pakistan and now at Sapphos Environmental in Pasadena, made a comparative analysis of the environmental planning systems in Pakistan, New Zealand, Great Britain, and California, showing their advantages and limitations. Iffat fostered a discussion with the audience about developing a better environmental planning regulatory system in California.

On the last day, Rogerio Penido, a Brazilian architect-urbanist and project director at Oger International in Paris presented his firm's ongoing project to bring new roads and other infrastructure into the historic medina in Fez, Morroco. He highlighted the complex aspects and the wide social and cultural implications of a project designed to increase the community's quality of life and foster tourism development (in a settlement that is considered a world patrimony landmark by UNESCO).

The main message was clear and agreed upon by participants: the environmental design culture is moving away from urban sprawl, leap-frog development, and fragmented planning processes, in the pursuit of ecological, social and economic sustainability, integrated land use planning, and urban form management. The discussion of new perspectives and cross-cultural comparisons will always play an extremely important role in better preparing students and professionals for their role in planning in California, the U.S., and internationally. This event also demonstrated the value of working together with our professional associations. Finally, the success of the symposium can be measured by the large numbers of students and faculty at every session (an average of 100 per day, 600 total!). **Visit the Cal Poly City and Regional Planning online at http://planning.calpoly.edu to learn of upcoming events of interest.** 

(Peace Corps continued)

Positions are for a minimum of 27 months, are paid with a living stipend and full health benefits, and offer student loan deferral. Peace Corps selects the country of service, taking the applicant's regional preferences into consideration whenever possible.

Please note that the application process takes four to nine months, so apply online ASAP! The link to Urban and Regional Planning opportunities on the Peace Corps website is: <a href="http://www.peacecorps.gov/">http://www.peacecorps.gov/</a>

index.cgm?shell=learn.whatvol.busdev 01.urban

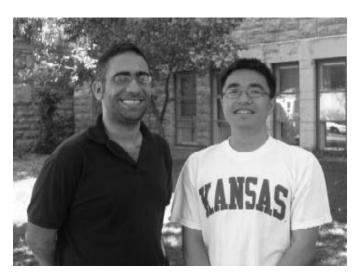
Jennifer Lindbom (Secretary-Treasurer of the International Division) served in the Peace Corps as a Local Development Planner in the Philippines from 1997 to 2000. She is available to answer questions about her experience at <code>jlindbom@acp-planning.com</code>.

The Master's International Program through the Peace Corps and associated universities is a relatively new program, and there are currently about 30 schools that participate. As for me, I will be leaving in September for Macedonia, or Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in the Environmental Management and Education program. The MI program is set up so that you complete one year of grad school then go on your assignment for two, and upon completing the assignment come back to school and do your thesis based on that assignment. It's a really great program and I am very excited about it, especially my assignment. I think that the program, and the Peace Corps itself, is great experience to have, especially for those interested in international development.

— Adam J. Rockel, MCP Candidate, University of Cincinnati School of Planning

# Two International Students Offer Their Perspectives on the 2004 APA Conference

Nobody had to twist the arms of Mowafiq Alanazi or Guoquiang (Alex) Li to convince them to attend the 2004 APA Conference in Washington, D.C. "I love D.C.! If there is one place I want to settle it is D.C.," said Mowafiq adamantly. When asked what the best part of the trip was, both Mowafiq and Alex spoke of the social component of the trip, as they enjoyed networking with other planners as well as spending time with friends from the University of Kansas (KU) Urban Planning program.



Mowafiq Alanazi (left) and Alex Li (right)

Originally from Saudi Arabia, Mowafiq was in a sense connected to the capital city before he even moved to the U.S. For 16 years after high school he worked as a translator in the U.S. Army in Saudia Arabia, until he decided to come to KU in 1999 to earn his bachelors in political science.

Alex received his undergraduate degree in Urban and Economic Geography from Zhongshan University in Guangzhou City, in the People's Republic of China. He then worked a year and a half for a government-owned tourism company in China before coming to the U.S. in 2001 to complete his Master of Urban Planning.

Alex definitely made an effort to meet with planning professionals at the conference. "I met so many real [practicing] planners and got the chance to talk to them. I asked them questions about the job search and job interviews...They gave

me very honest and inspiring answers...I bought some books and the conference's audio record, and these will become a good reference for me when I need them." He was also inspired by the mobile workshop that he attended in Richmond, Virginia. Impressed by the conversion of an old prison into apartments in Richmond, Alex commented that, "...the tour extended my perspective on planning."

Mowafiq attended workshops focused on issues affecting minority communities, as he hopes to work on housing and community development issues in diverse and low-income areas as a professional. As for his feelings on the APA Conference he described the concentration of members clothed in APA buttons, bags and t-shirts as providing, "...this sense of being in a tribe all of sudden!" When it came to networking he had the feeling that, "the opportunities are endless...there were people from all over the country. The presenters got excited about talking to students, sharing their knowledge, and this was especially true if the students showed their enthusiasm."

Both Alex and Mowafiq felt that their experience at the conference was a meaningful one, and they hope to become more involved with the APA and attend future conferences. As Alex put it, "I will return to the APA conference next year. I will see friends that I know now from many places!" Alex will be graduating from the KU with a Master of Urban Planning Degree with an emphasis in transportation planning. Mowafiq is finishing up his first year in the urban planning program at KU.

Contact Mowafiq or Alex to hear more about their experiences at the APA conference: Guogiang(Alex) Li:  $\underline{gqli@ku.edu}$  or (718) 760-4382, and Mowafiq Alanazi:  $\underline{mowafiq@hotmail.com}$ 

## **Membership Survey**

One of the first tasks completed by the new Board was a survey of Division members. The APA, under the guidance of Susan Turner, provided the survey with no cost to the division. The results were presented at the Division membership meeting during the National APA Conference in Washington D.C. last April. About 30% of the total membership responded. A majority of the members have been Division members for three years, or less (54%), employed at all levels of the public sector (62%) or academia (28%), and are currently members of other APA divisions (59%).

When asked what Division services they found most beneficial, most respondents mentioned the newsletter (70%), International Planning Exchange (53%), the Web site (42%), member networking (39%), and student mentoring (25%). Respondents rated *Interplan* valuable (63%) and would like to see a range of features in the newsletter, including case studies (73%), interviews with prominent members of the international planning community (65%), first person planning experiences (58%), and best practices (54%). Conference summaries, other than APA (53%) and book reviews (42%) deserve honorable mentions.

One of the major reasons for conducting the survey was to determine interest among the membership to participate in various Division activities. The most popular activity mentioned was participating on a division committee or task force (40%). Others members expressed interest in serving as a liaison to a related organization (23%), organize a National APA conference session on international issues (21%), report on conferences or educational programs attended (20%), or supply links or content for the division Web site.

Perhaps the most challenging portion of the survey to evaluate was asking members to list what they consider the most important project, program, or activity the Division should undertake in the coming year. The responses were both diverse and daunting. There were a number of issue areas identified, including international borders, sustainable development, planning (and design) trends across the planet, technology, networking at various levels, a range of international exchange programs, increase in partnership/outreach efforts, and the need for the division to provide more resources for members, especially in linking to the organizations, programs, and projects that represent membership interest. Also, it is noteworthy that approximately 60 of the members are students with a wide range of economic, environmental, and social interests.

Specific comments from many respondents further reflected the breadth of interests, with limited consensus. The comments represented interests in particular issue areas (professional outreach to planning organizations in other countries, employment opportunities for both graduating students and practitioners seeking career changes) and specific nations. A limited number of members offered to volunteer to assist the Division in various ways, especially in establishing global networks with planners in other countries. These potential volunteers will be contacted once the Division completes the work plan for implementing a number of ideas generated from the survey. As was discussed at the Division business meeting in Washington, DC, the lack of consensus among the membership to identify program priorities from a wide field of interests represents a challenge to the board in preparing a work plan that meets the needs of the overall membership. Regardless, the board appreciates all those who took the time to respond to the survey and we are pleased with the knowledge that our membership includes a collection of creative and energetic people who want to make a difference in the world. Thank you!

### **REMINDERS**

### 2005 National Planning Conference

The 2005 Conference will be here before you know it - March 19-23, 2005 - in San Francisco. The early-bird registration cut-off will be in **mid-December**, so visit the conference Web site <a href="http://www.planning.org/2005conference/index.htm">http://www.planning.org/2005conference/index.htm</a> regularly to keep up to date on conference activities being planned.

# 2004 Conference Sessions Audio Tapes

Ordering information for audio tapes from the 2004 Conference in Washington, DC appears at <a href="http://www.planning.org/store/audiotapes.htm">http://www.planning.org/store/audiotapes.htm</a>.

### **Division Membership Application**

A division application has been developed for APA members who wish to add division(s) to their membership at any time during the year—or for those who wish to be division-only members. This application appears at <a href="https://www.planning.org/joinapa">www.planning.org/joinapa</a> along with the regular APA and special student applications.

### **Update Your APA Profile**

All division members (even division-only) can now access their APA profiles and make changes online. These changes become effective immediately - mailed or faxed changes requiring manual entry will take longer to appear. To access your APA profile go to <a href="https://www.planning.org/myprofile">www.planning.org/myprofile</a>. Enter your APAID (from Planning magazine mailing label or invoice) and password (click on "create a new password" if you've forgotten it or do not have one). Send a message to <a href="https://www.webmaster@planning.org">Webmaster@planning.org</a> if you need assistance.

## **International Division Membership Available On-line**

The idea of developing a membership roster was discussed during the Annual Business Meeting. Unfortunately due to privacy concerns, APA does not encourage circulation of membership lists. BUT, all is not lost! The International Division's member directory is available through the Member Services page on the APA website (www.planning.org). After you log in, you can search for members by name, division, state, etc. Happy surfing!

## A Big "Thank-You"...

...goes out to our two new Corresponding Editors, Karin Graves and Mike Sabel, and our new Web Content Administrator, Michael Abbey, who have volunteered to help prepare great articles of interest to the Division.

Karin holds a BFA in Photography from the Rhode Island School of Design and a MUP from the University of Kansas in Lawrence. It was photography that led her to planning: a photo-journalism project in Costa Rica, examining the social and environmental effects of tourism and development on the small village of Manzanillo. (She lived and studied there for six months, met her husband-to-be, and decided to become a planner.) Having recently completed an internship with the Kansas City Housing Authority, she is embarking on the rest of her career to effect good land use/transportation planning that directly benefits the low-income, minority, and immigrant populations of the U.S. Karin can be reached at karingraves@hotmail.com.

Mike Sabel is a planner with Schoor DePalma, an engineering and planning firm in New Jersey. His work includes community visioning, land use planning and redevelopment projects. Mike graduated from Tufts University in 1996 with a BA in environmental studies and history. In 2002 he completed an MA program in urban planning at UCLA, where he focused on international planning and development issues. Mike recently published an article about community schools and architecture in the urban affairs magazine *The Next American City*. His e-mail address is <a href="maskel@schoordepalma.com">msabel@schoordepalma.com</a>.

Michael Abbey has recently returned from an extended stay in Japan, and having relocated to Rhode Island is now a Master's Degree candidate (Environmental & Land Use Planning and Maritime Affairs-Coastal Zone Managment) at the University of Rhode Island. His hard work rejuvenating the Division Web site (<a href="www.planning.org/international">www.planning.org/international</a>) is well underway. Thanks to his planning and development efforts, we anticipate a robust site that is of interest to all members. Log on—and don't hesitate to send content and suggestions!

### Visit the Web Site! www.planning.org/international

APA International Division

Membership Application

Name	
Organization	
Address	
E-Mail	
APA Member	\$25.00
Non-Member	\$40.00
APA Student	\$10.00
Check enclosed	payable to APA (US dollars)
Charge my Mas	ter Card / Visa
Signature	
Card Number	
Expiration Date _	

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