

LAURA J. DEDENBACH, Ph.D., AICP

Instructional Assistant Professor | Interim Department Chair
Department of Urban and Regional Planning | University of Florida
466 Antevy Hall | laurajd@ufl.edu | (352) 294-1493

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Design, Construction and Planning

2016

University of Florida, College of Design, Construction, and Planning

Concentration: Urban and Regional Planning

Minor: Anthropology

Dissertation: A Defended Neighborhood: Territoriality in the Inman Park Neighborhood

Chair: Richard Schneider

Committee: Christopher Silver, Kristin Larsen, & Ieva Jusionyte

Master of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning

1999

University of Florida, Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Terminal Project: Developing a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Ordinance

Committee: Richard Schneider, Ernest Bartley, & Jay Stein

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science

1996

University of Florida

APPOINTMENTS

Interim Department Chair

2025 – present

University of Florida, College of Design, Construction and Planning

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Interim Associate Director

2025 – present

University of Florida, College of Design, Construction and Planning

School of Landscape Architecture and Planning

Instructional Assistant Professor

2019 – present

University of Florida, College of Design, Construction and Planning

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Director of Academic Programs

2019 – present

University of Florida, College of Design, Construction and Planning

Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Postdoctoral Associate

2018 – 2019

University of Florida, College of Design, Construction and Planning

Florida Institute for Built Environment Resilience

TEACHING

Undergraduate:

URP1002, "This Must Be the Place": Place-Based Narratives and Community Identity
 URP4000, Preview of Urban and Regional Planning
 URP4740, Housing and Urban Development
 URP4744, Neighborhood Planning
 URP4882, Defensible Space & CPTED in Urban Design
 URP3001, Cities of the World
 DCP1003, Creating Our Built Environment

Graduate:

URP6131, Land Use Planning Law
 URP6203, Planning Research Design
 URP6603, Development Review
 URP6745, Housing, Public Policy, and Planning
 URP6880, Defensible Space & CPTED in Urban Design
 URP6920, Colloquium

RESEARCH & GRANTS

Course Development Seed Grant: \$3,000.00 2021

Principal Investigator, City of Newberry, Florida, Land Development Code Update. 2021
 Award: \$60,000

Course Development Seed Grant: \$2,000.00 2020

Co-Principal Investigator, UF Department of Urban and Regional Planning 2017 – 2018

Project: Neighborhoods as Community Assets: Preparing for the Future While Protecting Neighborhoods. UF – City of Gainesville Research Awards. Principal Investigator: Kathryn Frank, Ph.D. Award: \$50,000.00

Co-Principal Investigator, UF Center for Health and the Built Environment 2017

Project: Safe Routes to School Technical Assistance Phase 2. Florida Department of Transportation. Principal Investigator: Ruth Steiner, Ph.D. Award: \$161,839.00

Research Associate, UF Center for Health and the Built Environment 2016

Project: Safe Routes to School Technical Assistance Phase 1. Florida Department of Transportation. Principal Investigator: Ruth Steiner, Ph.D. Award: \$117,500.00

Research Associate, UF Center for Building Better Communities 2014

Project: Greening Green Cove Springs. Department of Economic Opportunity. Principal Investigator: Ferdinand Lewis, Ph.D. Award: \$25,000.00

Research Associate, UF Center for Building Better Communities 2014

Project: Creative by Nature. City of Gainesville & Alachua County. Principal Investigator: Ferdinand Lewis, Ph.D.

Research Associate, UF Department of Urban and Regional Planning 2014

Project: Planning for Sea Level Rise in the Matanzas Basin. National Estuarine Research Reserves System Science Collaborative. Principal Investigator: Kathryn Frank, Ph.D.

PUBLICATIONS & REPORTS

Larsen, K., Redden, T., **Dedenbach, L.**, & Frank, K. (2024). Historic Town-Gown Partnerships: Planning, Race, and Power. *Journal of Planning History*, 24(2), 104-132.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/15385132241265981>

Redden, T., **Dedenbach, L.**, Larsen, K., & Frank, K. (2021). Gainesville's forgotten neighborhood: An examination of narratives in planning. *Journal of the American Planning Association*. 88(3), 392-404. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01944363.2021.1981775>

Dedenbach, L., Frank, K., Larsen, K., & Redden, T. (2021). Building the foundation for Arnstein's ladder: community empowerment through a Participatory Neighborhood Narrative process. In M. Lauria and C. Slotterback (Eds.), *Learning from Arnstein's Ladder: From Citizen Participation to Public Engagement*. Routledge Press: RTPI Library Series.
<https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429290091>

Wang, Y., Hulse, D., VonMeding, J., Brown, M., & **Dedenbach, L.** (2020). Conceiving resilience: Lexical shifts and proximal meaning in the human-centered natural and built environment literature from 1990 to 2018. *Developments in the Built Environment*, (1),
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dibe.2019.100003>

Steiner, R., **Dedenbach, L.**, Chen, X., Dole, A., & Wood, S. (2018). Using geographic information systems (GIS) to provide technical assistance on Safe Routes to School in rural communities in Florida. *Journal of Transport & Health*, (9), pp. S30-S31.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jth.2018.05.090>

Technical Reports:

Dedenbach, L.J. 2019. "A Report on UF-Gainesville Collaborative Engagement Initiatives."

Frank, K., **Dedenbach, L.**, Larsen, K., Redden, T. 2018. "Neighborhoods as Community Assets."

Steiner, R., **Dedenbach, L.**, Brown, L., Smith, J. 2016. "Implementing Safe Routes to School Programs in Rural Florida Communities." Prepared for the Florida Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Office.

AWARDS & HONORS

Outstanding Teacher of the Year, Department of Urban and Regional Planning	2025
UF+QM Exemplary Course Designation – URP3001 (online delivery)	2024
Outstanding Teacher of the Year, Department of Urban and Regional Planning	2021
APA Florida Award of Excellence in Neighborhood Planning Project: Neighborhoods as Community Assets: The Porters Community	2019
Carl Feiss Urban and Environmental Design Award Department of Urban and Regional Planning	2017
Graduate Student Teaching Award University of Florida Graduate School	2016
Best Presentation Award for <i>Using Adobe Spark for student engagement</i> Interface Conference, University of Florida	2016
APA Florida Outstanding Student Project: Greening Green Cove Springs	2015

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Dedenbach, L. and Dost, K. *Beyond the Classroom: Whole Student Planning Education at the University of Florida*, American Planning Association National Conference, Denver, CO, 2025.

Akar, G., **Dedenbach, L.**, Doussard, M., & McDonald, N. Undergraduate Planning Education, ACSP Administrators Conference, Denver, CO, 2025.

Dedenbach, L., Frank, K., Larsen, K., and Redden, T. *Building the foundation for Arnstein's Ladder: Community empowerment through a Participatory Neighborhood Narrative process*, individual paper presentation, ACSP National Conference, Greenville, SC, 2019.

Dedenbach, L., Frank, K., Larsen, K., and Redden, T. *Neighborhoods as community assets: the role of narrative in protecting gentrifying neighborhoods*, poster session presentation, ACSP National Conference, Buffalo, NY, 2018.

Frank, K., **Dedenbach, L.**, Larsen, K. *Neighborhoods as community assets*, UF – Gainesville Research Awards Showcase, Gainesville, FL, 2018.

Dedenbach, L. and Wolpert, A. *Using Adobe Spark for student engagement*, Interface Conference, Gainesville, FL, 2016.

SERVICE

To the Profession:

APA Florida, Legislative Policy Committee, San Felasco Representative	2025
APA Florida, Legislative Policy Committee, Housing Subcommittee Chair	2025
Best Book in Urban Affairs Award Committee, UAA	2022 – present
John Friedmann Book Award Committee, ACSP	2022 – 2024
Reviewer, Journal of Urban Affairs	2021
APA Florida, Awards Committee	2020 – present
APA Florida, Executive Committee, Faculty Member	2020 – 2022
Showcase Organizer: UF – Gainesville Research Awards Showcase	2018
Panel Chair: Urban Uncertainties and Criminalities, Crimescapes Conference	2016
Crime, Law, & Governance Working Group	2012 – present
Chair, Alachua County Board of Adjustment	2012 – 2014
At-large Member, San Felasco Section, APA-FL	2010 – 2013

To the University:

UF Quest 1 Co-Director	2025 – present
Land Use and Facilities Planning Committee, Senate Appointee	2022 – present
Professional Curriculum Committee, Senate Appointee	2022 – 2023
Creative Assessment Troupe	2021 – 2022
Faculty Advisor, Florida Not One More	2021 – 2023
Faculty Advisor, Students for New Urbanism	2019 – present
Chair and UF Representative, Community Partnership School	2018 – 2019
Faculty Advisor, Students for Gainesville	2016 – 2018

To the Department/College:

SBE Faculty Advisory Council, URP Representative	2024 – present
College Curriculum Committee, Chair	2022 – 2023
College Curriculum Committee, SLAP Representative	2021 – present
Faculty Search Committee, LAE – Instructional Asst. Prof.	2023 – 2024
Faculty Search Committee, URP – Assistant Professor	2022 – 2023
Department Chair Search Committee, URP	2021 – 2022
Faculty Search Committee, URP – Assistant Professor,	2020 – 2021
Faculty Advisor, Student Planning Association	2019 – present
Chair, Awards Committee	2019 – 2023
Chair, Admissions Committee	2019 – present
DCP Representative, Humanities Steering Committee	2015 – 2019

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Owner, Dedenbach Planning Associates, LLC, Gainesville, FL	2005 – 2023
Planning & Community Development Director, City of Alachua, FL	2001 – 2005

Senior Planner, Department of Growth Management, Alachua County, FL	1997 – 2001
---	-------------

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Florida Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Practitioner	2012
--	------

LEED Green Associate, No. 10274595	2011
------------------------------------	------

American Institute of Certified Planners, No. 016819	2001
--	------

AFFILIATIONS

Member, Urban Affairs Association	2020 – present
-----------------------------------	----------------

Member, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society	2016 – present
-------------------------------------	----------------

Member, Urban Land Institute	2015 – present
------------------------------	----------------

Member, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning	2012 – present
---	----------------

Member, American Planning Association	1996 – present
---------------------------------------	----------------