

Message from Rayman Mohamed, Chair



Students, alums, and friends! We will start off with the obvious: the last 1 ½ years have been something! But through it all, our students and faculty displayed the kinds of dexterity and fortitude that we have been so accustomed to seeing from them. In March 2020, we switched to online teaching

“on a dime,” and kudos to all for making this happen.

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. Professor **Avis Vidal** has retired, and Assistant Professor **Andy Guinn** has joined the faculty—read more about him in this issue. Assistant Professor **Patrick Cooper-McCann** was promoted from Instructor. **Faith Doyle** took over from **Stacie Moser** as our undergraduate advisor. Thanks Stacie and welcome Faith

Administrative Assistant **Yvonne Maxwell** continues to provide stellar service to the department; it is no understatement to say that we would not be able to function without her. I encourage current students and alums to send Yvonne a big thank you—she does more to move you all through the system than you can ever imagine. Thanks Yvonne!



Our Master’s degree in Urban Planning continues to be strong. While several factors contribute to this, undoubtedly the strength of the program comes from the high quality of our students themselves. We continue to be amazed at the quality of their work, and we are always delighted to get updates from them. The three-year-old

minor in Urban Sustainability continues to gain ground.

This year, as part of a required seven-year review, we will prepare a self-study of the Urban Studies major. In winter 2022, we will prepare a strategic plan for our department, and reach out to you for input. Until then, stay well and be in touch! Thank you to all who have contributed updates to this newsletter and to Professors **Kami Pothukuchi** and Andy Guinn and student assistant **David Karst** for assembling it!

A belated welcome to Andy Guinn!

A belated welcome to **Andy Guinn**, who joined DUSP in fall 2019 as Assistant Professor! A scholar with an interest in policies and institutions that promote inclusive and equitable economic development at the local, national and transnational levels, Guinn conducts research in two broad areas: industrial value chains and sectoral development strategies; and labor markets and workforce development. He is currently researching public and non-profit labor market intermediaries in Detroit, and their roles in shaping local economic development and income distribution, and he will undertake a research trip to Brasilia, Brazil, in Summer 2022 to investigate how planners and residents have revisited the city’s notorious high-modernist design principles and planning institutions towards more democratic and inclusive outcomes since the end of the country’s military dictatorship in the 1980s.



Guinn has worked in several countries, including Brazil, India, Burundi, Rwanda, Canada and the United States, and has been funded by various organizations including the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, Oxfam GB, and the National Industry Confederation



BEN TALLERICO, AICP, 1957-2021

Longtime adjunct lecturer **Benjamin J. Tallerico** (MUP 1987), AICP, passed away March 23, 2021, with his loving family by his side. He was diagnosed with prostate cancer three years ago.

Since the late 1990s, Tallerico taught many courses in the department, including Introduction to Urban Studies, Urban Planning Process, Planning Resources and Communication, and Planning Studies and Methods. He also supervised several master’s essays. Besides the MUP, Tallerico’s other degrees include an MA in political science from Wayne, a bachelor’s in Business Administration from Lawrence Tech, and several planning and design certifications, including the AICP (American Institute of Certified Planners). His students consistently reported valuing his professional experience and sense of humor in the classroom! He is sorely missed!

(Brazil). His research has examined such varied topics as policies to expand access to technical education and higher education in Brazil, regional food systems in North Carolina, the shipbuilding industry in Nova Scotia, Canada, skills training for green infrastructure projects in San Francisco, and industrial planning for a rail corridor in Andhra Pradesh, India.

Guinn's master's and doctoral degrees in City and Regional Planning are from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and he has a Bachelor's of Arts in International Studies and Spanish Literature from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He currently teaches UP 6510-Urban and Regional Systems, UP6550-State Regional and Urban Economic Development, UP6570-Local Economic Development Implementation and Finance, and US 2000-Introduction to Urban Studies. This fall he launched a new undergraduate course, US2200-Global Urbanism.

Covid-19 hit just as he was settling in his new community. He has coped, in part, by playing piano, listening to Brazilian hip-hop, and becoming a regular at Eastern Market — and adopting a 6-month old kitten, Aretha. He has joined the Ann Arbor Life Sciences Orchestra this fall as a string bassist. "There's no place in the world quite like Detroit, and I am lucky to be here," he says. We're lucky to have you, Andy!

Emeriti Professor Notes



Emeritus Professor **Robin Boyle**, and **Brooks Cowan** (MUP 2017) and **Nick Dupuis** (MUP 2019), both planners with the City of Birmingham, are currently examining the impact of Covid-19 (de)regulations on downtown businesses. Boyle is long standing member of the

city's Planning Board, and he has also served its chair for the last 16 years.

In July 2020 Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed bills allowing alcoholic beverages to be sold "to go," enabling the Michigan Liquor Control Board to approve "Social Districts" or designated outdoor areas where businesses are permitted to serve alcohol. This state-wide Covid-19 initiative became hugely successful. As of June 24, 2021, 36 counties and 70 cities had approved such districts to allow restaurants and bars to extend their outdoor facilities. [Source: Bridge Magazine, online].

Birmingham did not need to designate these Districts. For almost two decades, the city had actively encouraged the establishment of bistros (small restaurants



Temporary outdoor seating in Birmingham extends into the roadway.

with a maximum of 65 seats indoor) with a *requirement* to set up temporary outdoor seating nearby. With some 26 bistros and restaurants offering outdoor seating (April - November), this measure gave small bistros more business while also realizing a planning goal of "activating the street" and transforming downtown. As Covid-19 hit, the city allowed restaurants to extend their outdoor seating along the sidewalk and into the roadway, and construct "temporary" screens and roofs to protect patrons.

In June 2021, the City of Birmingham decided to revert to the pre-Covid situation, requiring the *extended* seating and structures to be removed. Local businesses were disappointed, some outraged. Many of the bistros had seen their business expand over the past 12 months; now, in the face of increased post-Covid demand, they were required to cut back on outdoor seating. The Planning Department--staff and Board--was caught in the cross-hairs. While the decision to stop the extended outdoor seating was taken by the City Commission it fell to the planners to address the conflict.

As of July 2021, local businesses are working with the City to find common ground between the original (pre-Covid) outdoor seating ordinance—with its Nov-Apr stipulations that all outdoor seating be brought inside after hours to facilitate snow removal—and the pandemic extensions. Dupuis and Cowan are researching national and international examples of downtown ordinances that control and permit outdoor dining in cities. At the same time, they're using a new interactive public engagement tool, Engage Birmingham (engage.bhamgov.org), to gauge interest in the return of expanded dining platforms and how year-round external seating might be accommodated in the city.

Since retiring from Wayne State University and moving to the Pearl District in downtown Portland, OR, in 2017, Emeritus Distinguished Professor **George**

Galster has remained active in research projects and community service. He continues his collaborations with interdisciplinary groups of scholars based in Sheffield University (United Kingdom) and Oslo Metropolitan University



Tourist George Galster after speaking at Yonsei University, Seoul.

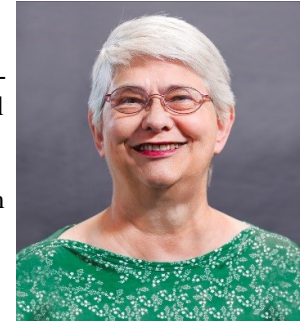
(Norway). Both groups aim to explore dimensions of urban inequality as it relates to housing, education, health and employment. “These experiences have been extremely rewarding, not only as intellectual stimulation but also as a means of building close friendships,” notes Galster. Fortunately, Covid did not delay the efforts much since most of the work was done remotely.

Galster is greatly enjoying a research collaboration on environmental justice with his son, Josh, a geologist and associate professor at Montclair State University. They have statistically modelled over 90,000 dams in the US which have been removed over the last decade. They found that for state and local government-owned dams in the South there was a distinct pattern of removals more likely occurring in whiter neighborhoods, even after controlling for the characteristics of the dams. In a follow-up paper they found that such dam removals created billions of dollars in enhanced property values nearby, most of which were reaped by white homeowners.

In a related matter, this year Galster has served as an expert witness in a cutting-edge housing discrimination case. The National Fair Housing Alliance and ten local fair housing groups (including in Detroit) have sued a major online real estate company for discriminatory provision of service based on the principle of disparate racial impact. The parties are engaged in settlement discussions as this newsletter is being written, but Galster is confident that this effort will lead to superior real estate agent service in disproportionately minority-occupied neighborhoods across the country.

Finally, his 2019 book, *Making Our Neighborhoods, Making Our Selves*, has garnered glowing reviews. “Impressive in its scholarship and scope, this is a major addition to the literature on neighborhoods” (Robert Beauregard, Columbia University). “A major contribution to the study of housing and neighborhoods” (Sarah Mawhorter, Groningen University, The Netherlands). “Everyone should read this” (Carolina Reid, University of California-Berkeley). Galster writes, “the book is dedicated with thanks to the generation of students with whom I learned in the ‘Neighborhood Decline and Revitalization’ course.”

When she retired in January 2020, Professor Emerita **Avis Vidal** planned to reward herself with some extended travel. Courtesy of COVID, she has instead enjoyed exploring some new cookbooks and made excellent progress working her way through her large pile of modern fiction stockpiled over the years for “when there’s time”. She also continues to serve on the advisory boards of Hope Village Revitalization, a CDC serving the near west side of Detroit, and Opportunity Resource Fund, a community development financial institution making home mortgages and small business loans to Michigan borrowers too poor to qualify for financing from mainstream banks. She’s still looking forward to travel, but so far the best part of being retired is ignoring the alarm clock!



Capstone seminars respond to Covid-19

The capstone seminar in the MUP curriculum is designed to provide students with an opportunity to integrate and apply skills and knowledge they acquired in the program to the needs of a real-world client. Student teams simulate a planning consulting firm that works with the client to develop the scope of services related to the project. Work for four academic credits is performed during the 14-week long summer semester, so the typical capstone with 15 students offers an equivalent of 2,500 free consulting hours.

2020—East Warren Business Corridor

In 2020, the 16 capstone students were tasked by the East Warren Development Coalition to map East Warren’s trajectory as a business corridor and, in light of the sudden restrictions associated with Covid-19, conceive a strategy to help businesses cope with pandemic-related disruptions.

In the early decades of the twentieth century, East Warren had many businesses—including drug stores, groceries, restaurants, as well as hardware, clothing, and shoes stores—where residents could shop for their basic needs. However, beginning in the 1950s, white, middle-class residents fled to newly built suburbs, and local retail lost market share to suburban department stores and shopping malls, leading to declining revenues and business closures.

Students inventoried current businesses, specifically identifying Covid-19 related closures and sought to understand needs and challenges for reopening; developed a resiliency framework for attracting, retaining, and

strengthening businesses; and explored creative uses of vacant properties. They found that businesses were quick to respond to Covid's restrictions and offered curbside pickup, sold masks and other protective equipment, performed more cleaning and sanitizing, and set up outdoor seating areas for dining. Findings were assembled in *The East Warren Business Corridor: A COVID-19 Response Guidebook*.

The report identified 4 goals: provide training opportunities for East Warren Businesses, establish a framework for attracting and retaining businesses, implement landscape and physical design changes in the corridor, and support all forms of mobility. It also developed 23 objectives including transitioning to e-commerce, hosting outdoor town hall meetings, improving parking, and enhancing bicycle safety.

2021—Midwest Neighborhood Master Plan

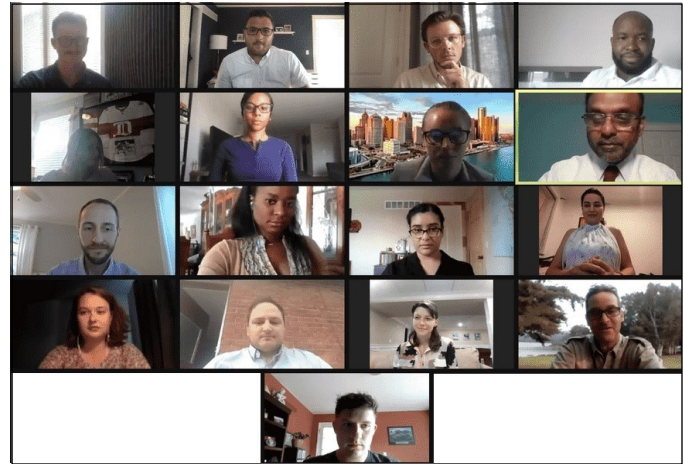
The Capstone Project for 2021 involved study and development of a master plan for the Midwest Neighborhood in Detroit. The area is bounded by I-96 to the north and east, Warren Avenue and I-94 to the south, and an old Conrail rail-line—the site of the new Joe Louis Greenway—to the west. With continuing Covid-related restrictions 16 students worked together and with community leaders in online meetings and researched aspects of the neighborhood individually and in small groups.

Their report identifies key priorities and recommendations for each of four main topics: community development, economic development, transportation, and environment.

Priorities for community development include engaging the community, establishing a community center, improving existing parks, and integrating the future Joe Louis Greenway into the neighborhood. Economic development priorities include establishing business nodes on key corridors, stabilizing commercial blocks, encouraging small business development, and establishing a regular farmers market.



This picture of the Bluebird Inn was part of the assessment of assets in the Midwest Neighborhood study.



DUSP students present findings and recommendations from the 2021 Capstone Project.

To expand transportation access, students urged improvements for non-motorized vehicles such as bike repair shops and for public transportation such as seating at bus stops, and also suggested changes to traffic flows in the neighborhood. Finally, ownership by the Detroit Land Bank of a significant portion (43%) of the neighborhood's parcels offers many opportunities for environmental improvements, including repurposing vacant land; reducing air, water, and soil pollution; and better managing storm water.

Students made a public presentation on their report to their client, the Office of Detroit City Council Member Raquel Castañeda-López (District 6), specifically Community and Policy Coordinator Jai Singletary. The class is grateful to the many residents and leaders who served as advisors, especially RuShann Long, Sheri Burton, and Ethelyn Carroll.

The 2020 and 2021 reports, along with those from previous years, can be obtained from DUSP's website at www.wayne.edu/usp/capstone.

Natalie Lyon, Adam Pruett win several awards, 2019-20!

Congratulations to **Natalie Lyon** (MUP 2020) and **Adam Pruett** (MUP 2020) who won three awards and an honorable mention between fall 2019 and fall 2020!

In October 2019, Pruett and Lyon, leaders of the Detroit Biodiversity Network, received a \$25,000 Ford C3 (College Community Challenge) grant to engage students in green stormwater infrastructure projects on campus in collaboration with Detroit Future City. The following month, Lyon, along with fellow T-RUST trainees Darrin Hunt and Slava Pallas, received \$2,500 from the Sharon L. Ram Aquatic Sciences Fund to support their research on invasive species in urban parks. (T-RUST stands for Transformative Research in Urban Sustainabil-

ity Training, an interdisciplinary program lead by Professor Donna Kashian of Biology).

In May 2020, Lyon and Pruett won honorable mention for their submission, “Knowledge/Flow” to the second annual Student Design Summit sponsored by the Michigan Engaging Community through the Classroom, a joint initiative of the University of Michigan, Wayne State University and Midtown Detroit, Inc. Students were invited to offer design concepts for Cass Avenue, building connections between the Detroit Public Library’s main branch and Wayne.

In November 2020, eight Wayne State University students, including Lyon and Pruett won the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)’s People, Prosperity, and the Planet (P3) Design Competition. Both Lyon and Pruett were students in WSU’s interdisciplinary T-RUST program at the time.

Their project, titled *GIS-informed urban groundwater monitoring networks*, will understand how green storm-water infrastructure (GSI) affects urban groundwater flow and quality by piloting a network of community-based groundwater monitoring stations surrounding GSI sites in Detroit. The pilot is a first step to develop a scalable model of relatively low-cost groundwater monitoring stations at the neighborhood scale.

The project will help map connections between GSI and groundwater, identify exposure pathways for contaminants, and inform community education and engagement around the importance of groundwater resources in the Great Lakes region. In addition to Lyon and Pruett, the team consisted of Brittanie Dabney, Kate Ekhatior, Darrin Hunt, Colleen Linn, and Brendan O’Leary.



Source: research.wayne.edu; Dec 7, 2020

The project, *GIS-Informed Urban Groundwater Monitoring Networks*, will offer an opportunity to understand how green storm-water infrastructure affects urban groundwater quality and flow.

Scholarship Awards, 2019-21

- ◆ Beatrice Martin Endowed Scholarship: Kimberly Benton, Caitlin Murphy, G. H. Kumudumali De Silva (2019)
- ◆ DUSP Tuition Scholarship: G. H. Kumudumali De Silva (2019); Douglas Hartleib (2020)
- ◆ Ford Campus Community Challenge Scholarship (SEED Wayne): Clara Gamalski (2019)
- ◆ Galster Endowed Scholarship: Francesco Ferrara (2019)
- ◆ Sue M. Smock Endowed Scholarship: Caitlin Murphy (2019); Ben Peacock (2020); Sarah Hipel (2021)
- ◆ SEED Wayne Endowed Scholarship: Patrick Crouch, Kenyetta Walker (2020), Aysha Boston, Raven Dunson, Javlon Jones, Anna Wysocki (2020).
- ◆ Urban Land Institute Endowed Scholarship: Peter Young (2020-21); Crystal Head (2021)
- ◆ Wineman Memorial Endowed Internship: Konner Petz (2019); Ufomaoghene Samuel Johnson (2020), Andrew Irwin (2020-21)

Faculty & Staff News

In 2020-21, Assistant Professor **Patrick Cooper-McCann** received a Wayne State Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship and a grant from the Office of the Vice President of Research to support his research on the history of population and housing loss in Metro Detroit. He published a review essay, “Negotiating the Post-Industrial City,” in 2019 in the *Journal of Planning History*, and he will travel to Bochum, Germany, in May 2022, to present a paper on the impact of deindustrialization on patterns of neighborhood decline in Metro Detroit.



Cooper-McCann is also completing papers on the management of parks in the cities of Detroit and Cleveland by organizations outside of local government, including corporations, nonprofits, and state government. He has been invited to share this scholarship with the William Davidson Foundation, the Detroit General Services Department, and a national Urban Land Institute Technical Assistance Panel.

Cooper-McCann and wife, Marisa Gies, welcomed daughter Sylvie in 2019, and they are now settling into their new home, which they purchased this fall. Meanwhile, Cooper-McCann also serves as faculty liaison to the student group, Wayne State Student Urban Planners, or WSSUP.

Academic Advisor **Faith Doyle** advises three departments within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Doyle has worked at WSU for over 10 years in a variety

of departments. In January 2014 she began working as an Academic Advisor with the Communication Science & Disorders Department, where she advised both Undergraduate and Post-Bachelor students. Since then, she became the Undergraduate Academic Advisor for the African American Studies department, and in fall 2021, the Undergraduate Advisor for DUSP.

Doyle has a B.A. in Education and a M.A. in Counseling from Wayne State University. She notes that the best part of her job is the ability to connect with students and to help guide them through their academic career, from application to graduation.



Like most of faculty colleagues, Senior Lecturer **Jeff Horner** (MUP 1993) was challenged with migrating in-person classes to live online environments. He wishes to dedicate this space to all WSU Warrior students, who powered through the pandemic, followed university protocols

precisely, and put up with online teaching in all of their courses throughout most of 2020. Warrior strong, indeed

When not teaching or serving on three university-wide committees and as DUSP's faculty union representative, Horner serves as an advisor on the Education Subcommittee of Building the Engine of Community Development in Detroit, and consults to the RAND Corporation. Horner is also publisher-shopping for his latest book idea. Horner also remains busy with quixotic attempts at Zoom mastery while forgetting the nuances of MS Teams, much to the chagrin of those he joins in Teams meetings. But his greatest accomplishment in the last year was avoiding hospitalization when downhill skiing for the first time in 30 years.

Associate Professor **Carolyn Loh** was on sabbatical during the 2019-2020 school year. She spent the year working with the Michigan Association of Planning Social Equity Committee and MUP student **Rose Kim** (MUP 2021), who has since graduated and is now working at Giffels Webster, on a study of how local comprehensive plans handle issues of equity. They



found many ways plans and planners can work to improve plans so that plans can guide land use, housing, and transportation decisions to make the most vulnerable residents better off. Loh has shared this research at the MAP conference, with the Detroit Land Bank staff, and at the 2020 ACSP Conference. In October 2021 she presented these findings and recommendations as the keynote speaker of the Memphis Housing Summit. Loh and Kim published two papers about this research in the *Journal of the American Planning Association* and the *Journal of Planning Education and Research* this past year. For more about this research, visit www.planningmi.org/equity.

After a year of working from home, Administrative Assistant **Yvonne Maxwell** is back in her office in Faculty Administration Building, four days a week. Much of her work with students and fellow employees continues to involve e-mail and phone communications



and administrative systems such as Banner and STARS. Thus, working remotely was not too challenging. Nevertheless, she is glad to be back on campus because it helps her shut down at 5 PM and leave work behind when she returns home. "That was the hardest part," she notes, "not going back to the computer because you can't sleep or you just thought of something you needed to do."

Promoted to full professor in 2020, **Rayman Mohamed** is currently the vice president and president-elect of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. Previously, he had served as chair of the Association's annual conference, 2014-16. Over the last few years, Mohamed launched a research agenda on how urban spaces are associated with obesity, supported by a grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. He is collaborating with colleagues from the Colleges of Medicine and Engineering to build applications for lower income residents to electronically access public bus schedules. Mohamed and wife Gazala Shamim welcomed their second child, Yusuf, in June 2020.



Distinguished Service Professor **Kami Pothukuchi** had two journal articles and three book chapters out, in

print, or under review for publication over the last two years. Two papers explore a new strand of research for her: the growth of urban light pollution (LP), its adverse impacts on human and ecological health, energy, and climate, and local efforts to regulate LP, if they exist at all. A related literature review was published in the *Journal of Planning Literature* in 2020.



Additionally, three chapters she authored or co-authored are out or forthcoming in edited collections led by Professors Richard Willson of University of California-Irvine and Samina Raja of University at Buffalo. Two chapters report, respectively, on urban agriculture in Detroit and Cleveland, and efforts to introduce fresh produce in corner stores in Detroit. A third, co-authored with colleague Deanna Glosser, reflects on their collaborations in food systems planning between 1996 and 2012 with the late Jerry Kaufman, Pothukuchi's colleague and mentor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In winter 2020, Pothukuchi delivered a workshop on food systems planning at the student-led SMAP conference of the Michigan Association of Planning.

News from Alums

Camille Walker Banks (MUP 2016) takes helm of LISC Detroit

The Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) has named Camille Walker Banks, a lifelong Detroiter and seasoned economic development leader, as the new executive director of LISC Detroit.



Banks will lead the organization's \$15-\$20 million in annual community investments to fuel affordable housing, economic development, health, education, safety and jobs in underserved communities. LISC has been particularly engaged in racial equity efforts, both in Detroit and nationally, as well as in supporting pandemic relief efforts for small businesses, housing providers and community-based nonprofits.

Banks most recently served as a regional executive director for NPower, leading the expansion of the Brooklyn-based anti-poverty organization into Michigan. She also served as executive director of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses program at Wayne State Uni-

versity and was a senior manager at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Earlier, she was economic development supervisor for the City of Madison Heights and brand marketing manager at FCA America.

"Thoughtful place-based strategies can lay the foundation for better housing, education, health, safety and jobs throughout our city, especially when they are designed with, and respond to, the people who live, work and own businesses in our communities," said Banks.

Banks has contributed her time to a variety of local organizations, including serving as chair of the BUILD Institute board of directors and as a board member for One Detroit Credit Union and the National Association of Women Business Owners (Greater Detroit). She served as committee chair for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and a member of the Michigan Economic Development Association. Besides her MUP, Banks has a BS in business administration also from Wayne State University.

Since graduating, **Christina Ignasiak** (MUP 2019) has been working to combine her urban planning training with her passion for transportation equity and access. She recently became a Community Planner at the Michigan Division of the Federal Highways Administration within the U.S. Department of Transportation. Prior to this, Ignasiak worked as a Planner at the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. She is active in various professional groups including Detroit Young Transportation Planning Professionals and Michigan Association of Planning, and is a committee chair for Advancing Women in Transportation. In her free time, she serves as Secretary for the Seward Block Club in Detroit, bikes around the city, and plays co-ed kickball on Belle Isle.

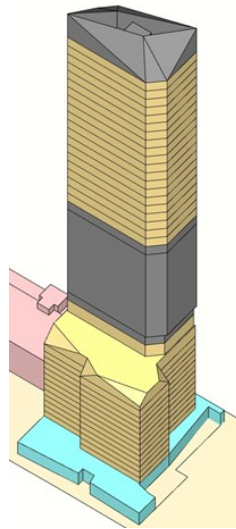


George M. Janes (MUP 1997), AICP, continues to lead his planning practice of George M. Janes & Associates in New York City. In recent years, Janes led a community driven effort to

explain how "supertall" buildings happen in NYC. He showed how the combination of market forces, new building technologies and a specific zoning loophole dubbed the "mechanical void" were allowing enormous

as-of-right towers in places where no one expected them. This work eventually led to the development and implementation of an amendment to the New York City Zoning Resolution that closed the “mechanical void” loophole in residential areas.

The last “mechanical void” building, which raced to vest prior to the zoning change, is shown on the right. The gray area in the middle is empty space nominally used for accessory building mechanicals, but primarily used to provide extra height to the apartments above. Janes has been a big supporter of our MUP students by making substantial contributions to fund internships for students.



Eric Kehoe (MUP 2020) recently became Real Estate Development Manager for Michigan Community Capital (MCC), a nonprofit development organization focusing on middle income housing. In this role, Eric will manage the development process for infill construction and adaptive reuse of historic buildings statewide. He is currently working on the redevelopment of a historic high rise building in Saginaw and new infill housing construction in Flint.



Since 2015, **Nina (Butler) Kelly** (MUP 2008) is Chief of Planning and Development for the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority. In this role, she serves as a key member of the admin leadership team supervising the planning, funding, and implementation of projects for the 13 millage-funded Metroparks comprising nearly 25,000 acres of public open space across Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, and Livingston counties. Until recently, she volunteered on the board of the Friends of the Ferndale Library and as an appointee to the Ferndale Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Commission. Kelly is excited to return to Wayne State in fall 2021 to pursue a doctorate in Communications in Urban Sustainability.



Miles Roblyer (MUP 2020) works as a planner for Bath Township outside Lansing, MI. His responsibilities include producing maps with GIS software, conducting research on industry, reviewing zoning permits, developing ordinance code, and working with the Planning Commission. Prior to graduating from Wayne, he worked for the Western U.P. Planning and Development Region as an Economic Development Planner. Roblyer served in the Marines from 2010-2014, deploying to Afghanistan twice. After returning, he attended University of Michigan-Flint and graduated in 2018 with a B.S. in Environmental Science and Planning and a minor in Economics. In Flint, he worked for the City’s Office of Economic Development and Genesee County Parks, serving for two years in each position.



Christian Togmus (BA, Urban Studies, 2020) now interns with the City of Bentonville, Arkansas, which is home to Walmart and one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. He has just accepted a full time Planner I position in Texas. As he sets out on his professional career, he also plans to undertake graduate studies in Urban Planning and obtain his AICP certification.



Roger Way (MUP 1982) has been a consultant for counties and non-profits in California for the last 33 years. This has included planning and grant development for initiatives that have integrated public health and urban planning to reduce health disparities in immigrant Latino and Asian communities. In this capacity, Way has played multiple roles, from program and grant development for counties with billion dollar budgets to incorporating and preparing business plans for small non-profit start-ups. Much of this work has involved the development of public and private grants that have raised over \$119 million for various initiatives. Way has been a big supporter of MUP students by making substantial contributions to fund internships for several students.



Robin West Smith (MUP 2009) has been selected to the Board of Directors for The Foundation at Monroe County Community College (MCCC), the first adjunct faculty at the college to receive the honor. She continues to teach Sociology classes at neighboring high schools as part of the MCCC's Direct College program. She was recently asked to speak regarding her work with The Wall in Detroit and other urban related issues. West Smith is also completing her Graduate Certificate in Non Profit Management with expected graduation in May 2022. On May 7th, West Smith's family welcomed her newest granddaughter, Autumn Marie Caruthers.



Robin West Smith's grandchildren, Autumn Marie and Czar (on Czar's first day of school).

Xiao (Amy) Zhou (MUP 2014) is currently enrolled in doctoral studies in transportation engineering in WSU's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, with a focus on Intelligent Transportation System (ITS). Her dissertation research involves developing a forecasting model for traffic congestion at highway work zones by applying GIS to integrate spatial data with traffic models. This summer, she completed an internship with the City of Detroit's Department of Public Works under **Jared Dean** (MUP 2017).

Zhou and fellow-alums **Shelby Holmes** (MUP 2020) and **Ashaki Zeigler** (MUP 2021), and **Kristin Shaw** (MUP Candidate), were part of a group of WSU students who submitted a winning entry in the fall 2018 student design competition to re-envision the Detroit Institute of Arts Plaza. Under the project name 51Eighty, the Warriors beat out 22 other teams from the University of Michigan, University of Detroit Mercy, College for Creative Studies and Interlochen Center for the Arts. Their design bagged the top two awards in the competition—the Cultural District Jury Award for Best Design and the People's Choice award. The MUP students were joined by Allison Elam and D. Gus Navarro from the College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts; Heather Washington, College of Education; and School of Social Work's Mariah Bosquez, Jessica Stroble, Krupa Vora, and Victoria Williamson. An event celebrating the stu-

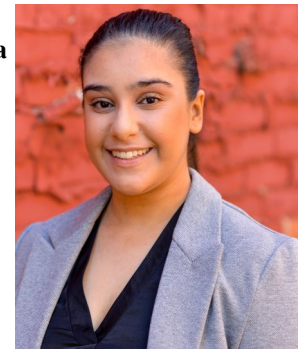
dents and their awards was hosted by then Provost Keith Whitfield and attended by CLAS Dean Steffi Hartwell and other college deans in February 2019.



From L to R: Amy Zhou, Shelby Holmes, Kristin Shaw, Sue Mosey of Midtown, Inc., D. Gus Navarro, and Allison Elam at the DIA Plaza Awards Event in January 2019.

Updates from Current Students

As a LISC Americorps member, MUP candidate **Sema Abulhab** was Research and Engagement Coordinator for the Center for Equity, Engagement, and Research at Detroit Future City. In this role, she conducted outreach to stakeholders and helped plan and execute community engagement events. Previously, she interned with West Bloomfield Township's Planning Department, where she logged variances granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Planning Department to track trends, and on sign permits. She also works as a tutor to help students with their ACT test in English, Reading, and Math.



MUP candidate **Noah Bussell** is working as an associate planner specializing in renewable energy permitting for Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. He writes permit applications and feasibility reports for solar and wind projects for local approval as well as state siting board approval across the Midwest, with most projects concentrated in Michigan and Indiana. Before that, he worked as an entry-level land use planner for ROWE Professional Services Company, an engineering and planning consulting company, for whom he updated land use plans, zoning ordinances, and special plans such as parks and recreation and economic development plans; he also served in zoning administration and meeting facilitation roles. At Michigan State, he worked as a

research assistant for Professor Wayne Beyea in projects related to the Safe Routes to School and Sustainable Built Environment Initiative programs. He also worked in the Statewide Planning Section at the Michigan Department of Transportation, where he assisted in developing Regional Transportation Plans and Transportation Improvement Programs for Metropolitan Planning Organizations located across Michigan.



Since 2005, MUP candidate **Patrick Crouch** has served as the manager of the Earthworks Urban Farm. In that role, he has overseen activities related to greenhouse and field production, processing, and sales of food while also linking these activities to a number of community collaborations related to education, ecological restoration, entrepreneurship, organizing, fundraising, and policy and program development. He is a founding past member of the Detroit Food Policy Council and a key member of the City of Detroit's Urban Agriculture Work Group led by City Planner **Kathryn Lynch Underwood** (MUP 1991).

Over the years, Crouch has partnered with Wayne State's SEED Wayne on campus activities related to urban agriculture and the farmers market as well as community activities related to healthy corner stores and food entrepreneurship. Most recently, he has partnered with Wayne State University and EcoWorks to develop low-cost methods for reducing lead bioavailability in garden soils and reducing childhood lead poisoning. He also has served as the Vice Chair on the School Board for the James and Grace Lee Boggs School, on Detroit's Eastside.

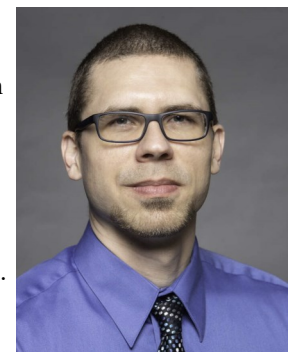


Rukiya and her son, Tupac, and teammates (Adam Franzel of Pophouse, Myrtle Thompson-Curtis of Freedom Freedom Growers, Paul Draus of UM Dearborn, Carlos Draus of CAN Arts Handrowks) from the 2021 Detroit City of Design Challenge.

MUP Candidate **Rukiya Colvin** has embraced many spaces this summer and is looking forward to finishing her studies soon. The summer was filled with many moments alongside her son as they gardened for the first time. She has been organizing for the Eastside Solutionaries Collective and has participated in the City of Design Challenge with some of the Solutionaries members. She is finishing up a fellowship for Planet Detroit where she writes as their environmental reporting fellow. A recipient of the 2021 Michigan Association of Planning's Memorial Scholarship, Colvin also serves on the organization's Metro Detroit Planners Career Development Committee.



MUP candidate **Colin Handzinski** recently accepted a job with the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the City of Detroit. Previously, he served as the Election Coordinator for the Charter Township of Clinton, where he had been working for the past three years in the Township Clerk's office. Before this, he had built a career over 11 years in the aviation industry, a position he still retains part-time, but currently furloughed since last April due to Covid. As an undergraduate, his internship with the City of Springfield, MO, Planning and Development Department had him updating the annual historic sites inventory and participating in administrative review meetings. This fall, he is celebrating becoming an uncle for the first time!



A reporter at WDET, Detroit's public radio station run out of Wayne State, MUP candidate **Laura Herberg** likes to work, whenever possible, on stories that intersect with urban planning. She was a founding board member for Hostel Detroit, located in Detroit's Corktown neighborhood. The hostel provides a low-budget opportunity for visitors from around the world to stay in and learn about the city, and also hosts community events for locals, such as yoga and dance parties. Hostel Detroit also launched their own internet radio station, Detroit Container Radio, to showcase Detroit's rich music culture. Previously, Herberg was a manager at An Office in Detroit, one of the city's first co-working spaces, where she helped recruit and onboard new members and served as liaison between the co-workers and the building owner.



Herberg reports on the green ooze spill in Madison Heights.

Jessica Hinton expects to graduate with her MUP in May 2022, with a concentration in Urban Economic Development. She recently started a new job with Cinaire Corporation as a Program Manager. In this role, she is the lead for the redevelopment plan in the McDougall-Hunt neighborhood, located between the Eastern Market and the Islandview neighborhood. Hinton will also provide leadership and support for emerging community development leaders and real estate developers. Previously, Hinton worked as Program Assistant at LISC Detroit and at MOSES as Project Coordinator. In her free time, she enjoys trying out new bars and restaurants in metro Detroit and traveling. Adhering to all Covid precautions, she traveled to Tulum, Mexico, New Orleans, LA, and Washington DC this summer.



Jessica Hinton in Tulum, Mexico, this summer

MUP Candidate **Stuart Jacobson** brings a great diversity of experiences globally, spanning the worlds of corporate finance and business development as well as those of nonprofit, faith-based community development and humanitarian relief. In the latter category, he is realizing his passion for rebuilding communities struck by disasters around the world. Most recently, he helped build affordable homes in Uzhhorod, Ukraine, while also training community members in the building trades. He has worked with organizations to integrate refugees in Chicago and other US cities. As a consultant to large financial firms such as Morgan Stanley, Lehman Brothers, and others, he has worked in investment banking, mergers and acquisitions, and other financial services. A licensed home builder in Michigan from 2017 to 2020, something he intends to renew now that he has returned from travels, Jacobson also has experience recruiting construction workers and acquiring and managing residential and commercial properties.



Stuart Jacobson (back row, in sunglasses) with a humanitarian team from Wheaton College in Humacao, Puerto Rico, in 2017.



Ben Peacock, MUP Candidate, has been working since July for the City of Novi as Planning Assistant. He is responsible for processing plans for site plan review, updating databases, mailing public hearing notices, and preparing materials for the city's Planning

Commission meetings, among many other tasks. He recently completed a year-long Planning and Public Works internship for Meridian Township. In this role he noted discrepancies in the Township's future land use map

with its GIS database and also recorded building permits and soil erosion.

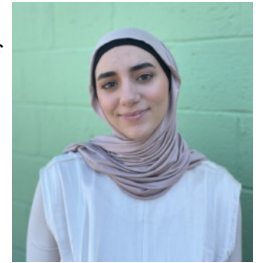
As a Student Ambassador at Michigan State University, Peacock worked as a liaison between campus administration and off campus student populations, in addition to serving as a student representative to the community's permanent residents. On a six-week Study Abroad program at MSU, he volunteered at a refugee center in Lesbos, Greece, where he helped remodel a school building for unaccompanied minors, and facilitated classroom discussions among Afghani and Syrian students about differences between western and eastern cultures.

MUP Candidate **Konner Petz** works for SMART Bus as a Transportation Planner. In this role, he prepares monthly data and analytics reports for key performance indicators, uses GIS to aid with route planning and transportation studies, and helps with innovative transportation program developments and projects such as mobility hubs, microtransit, etc. Prior to this position and other planning-related ones at SEMCOG and Detroit Future City, Petz also serves on the Michigan Association of Planning's Metro Detroit Planners Career Development Committee which works with area institutions to offer professional development opportunities to local youth. Petz worked as an environmental chemistry researcher and teaching assistant for the Honors College at Oakland University where he graduated with a degree in environmental science.



Urban Studies major **Yasmine Suleiman** is the 2021-2022 Community Development Fellow for the City of Ferndale. Suleiman has taken a keen interest in Ferndale after studying about it in several of her urban planning classes she is taking as a fourth-year undergraduate stu-

dent. She hopes to continue her education by joining the Master of Urban Planning program. With a strong interest in community organizing, Suleiman has worked with several Muslim communities around metro Detroit, including in Canton and Detroit, work that she hopes to enrich with skills gained from her Fellowship.



MUP Candidate **Chanina Veal** comes with a 15-year-long career with the State of Michigan's Unemployment Insurance Agency. In that role, she had many responsibilities, including engaging in ongoing communication with claimants and employers alike on unemployment benefits within the state and—particularly enjoyable for her—educating the community on the rights and responsibilities associated with paying into and receiving unemployment benefits. For the past several years, Veal is an English Language Arts teacher instructing Middle School students.



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