Department of Urban Studies and Planning ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Wayne State University | Department of Urban Studies and Planning

August 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2018 was another active and busy year for the Department of Urban Studies and Planning. We spent much of the year preparing for the reaccreditation of the Master of Urban Planning degree by the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB). Much of this time was spent writing a self-study report and preparing for a PAB assessment team that will visit later this fall. The team will meet the faculty, Deans in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate School, the Provost, and most importantly students and alums, community partners, and employers.

Meanwhile, the operations of the Department continued apace! After one year on phased-retirement, Professor Robin Boyle officially stepped down. Professor Boyle was a stalwart in planning circles in Southeast Michigan, Chair of the Department for several terms, and Associate Dean in the former College of Urban, Labor, and Metropolitan Affairs. He will be missed.

Professor Avis Vidal proceeded to phased retirement this year. As another former Chair of the Department between 2001 and 2005, she was responsible for shepherding the creation of the three specializations that students choose from today! Professor Kami Pothukuchi returned to the full faculty after serving a stint as Chair also.

Professor Patrick Cooper-McCann has fully settled into his role in the department, Professor Jeff Horner continues to direct the Undergraduate Programs, and Professor Carolyn Loh continues in her role without missing a beat. Finally, after being away from on leave, Professor Jim Carr has returned to the faculty full time.

DUSP's vital statistics remain strong. This fall, we entered a larger than usual Master of Urban Planning class of 26 students. The undergraduate Major in Urban Studies continues to hold its own, attracting highly motivated students from around campus. Finally, we launched a minor in Urban Sustainability!

The Department also welcomes Ms. Stacie Moser as the new Academic Advisor. Ms. Moser will spend part of her time with us.

On the new faculty front, the Department has been given authorization to hire a new faculty at the assistant or associate professor level. We will be starting the process shortly, and we expect to add a new face to these pages next year!

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PROFESSOR EMERITUS ROBIN BOYLE

DUSP celebrated the retirement of Professor Robin Boyle after 27 years of service to the University with a party on May 16th at the Common Pub.

During his long and distinguished carrer Professor Boyle established himself as a leading researcher in urban economic development in post-industrial cities. He has published several books, book chapters, and papers in this area. His approach to this topic has been broad, covering areas as diverse as aging-in-place, brownfields, and the new maker-economy and their links to economic development. His recent work on the maker-economy has shaped the field and influenced how the subject is taught to students internationally.



Robin Boyle with his family at the Common Pub on May 1st, 2018

During Professor Boyle's stewardship of DUSP, he oversaw many changes including successful hires and the evolution of the professional Master of Urban Planning (MUP) program to keep up with the changing demands of the profession.



Professor Boyle with Professor Mohamed and Senior Lecturer Horner



Professor Boyle with MUP alums Brian Vosburg, Erica Raleigh, and Khalil Ligon

He successfully guided the program through several reaccreditations with the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB). For many decades, this was the flagship program of the Department. The MUP program now shares this distinction with the major in Urban Studies, a program brought to fruition in 2007 by Professor Boyle during a period when such interdisciplinary programs were shunned by the University. He was himself a site visitor for PAB to many Planning departments across North America.

Professor Boyle is an icon in planning circles in Southeast Michigan. He has been sitting on the Birmingham Planning Board since 2004 (chair of the board between 2004 and 2016). He has also been an active member of the local chapter of the Urban Land Institute. He is part of numerous other initiatives, including being an early organizer of the Detroit Revitalization Fellows Program and currently sitting on the board of the Greening of Detroit.

He is likely to continue to play an outsize role in planning circles in Southeast Michigan after his retirement. He has been awarded the title of Professor Emeritus.

FACULTY UPDATES

Professor (Research) James H. Carr



Jim Carr is the Coleman A. Young Endowed Chair and Professor in Urban Affairs at Wayne State University, Visiting Fellow with the Roosevelt Institute, and Contributor to Forbes Magazine. He is also Chairman and CEO of Turquoise Bay Investment Partners, an Expert with the Institute for New Economic Thinking and consultant with the Gerson Lehrman Group, Inc. Previously, Jim served as Senior Fellow with the Center for American Progress. Prior to that he held the position of Chief Business Officer for the National Community Reinvestment Coalition where he established and managed minority- and women-owned business centers in Washington, DC, New York, NY, and Hous-

ton, TX, that assisted their clients to access \$1.8 billion in capital and \$350 million in federal contracts...

Assistant Professor Patrick Cooper-McCann

Instructor Patrick Cooper-McCann is recently married and preparing to defend his dissertation, "The Promise of Parkland: Planning Detroit's Public Spaces, 1805-2018." The dissertation foregrounds two concerns of contemporary park planning: the changing roles that public and private institutions have played in providing urban parkland and the persistence of racial inequality over time. It shows these two issues to be interrelated historically—in sometimes surprising ways—and argues that racial equity must be considered when assessing the merits of different forms of provision and their influence on the "publicness" of parks. Cooper-McCann presented a chapter of the dissertation



at the National Conference on Planning History last October and will present another chapter this November at ACSP. In addition to the dissertation, Cooper-McCann is also working on several new research projects, including a study analyzing the challenges and opportunities that arise when cities transfer control of urban parks from one level of government to another (e.g. the transfer of Belle Isle Park from the city to the state).

Senior Lecturer Jeff Horner



In 2017, Senior Lecturer Jeff Horner was hired as a consultant to the RAND Corporation's study Understanding Socio-Environmental and Physical Risk Factors Influencing Firearm Violence, a multi-city investigation that includes Detroit. In March 2018, Jeff was an invited speaker to Minnesota State University's lecture series, "Urban America: Emerald City or Arkham Asylum, Projecting the Urban Past into the Future." Jeff was also a speaker at the Eighth International Conference on the Built Environment, held at WSU in May. Jeff's urban planning elective course "The Detroit Rebellion at 50: Retrospect and Prospect," was offered for the third and last time in Spring Summer, and drew

65 WSU students, graduate and undergraduate, plus several visiting students. Jeff also sits on the Leadership Pipeline Task Force for Building the Engine of Community Development in Detroit.

FACULTY UPDATES

Associate Professor Carolyn Loh



In the past year Associate Professor Carolyn Loh published a chapter in a new book, Planning Knowledge and Research, called "Learning from Practice, Learning for Practice in Local Land Use Planning Research." It argues that the research planning academics do should both learn from practitioners and be useful to practitioners. She also published an opinion piece in the Detroit Free Press about the history of I-375 and one in the Detroit News on planning issues on which candidates for state office should take positions. I'm currently working on two international projects, one looking at bus rapid transit planning in Ghana, and the other comparing city-level climate change planning in Bangalore and Chennai with Boston and Chicago. Professor Loh is also working on a project in partnership with a planner in the Detroit Planning and Development Department evaluating public participation in neighborhood planning processes.

Associate Professor and Chair Rayman Mohamed

Associate Professor and Chair Rayman Mohamed has wrapped up a number of papers with Chinese colleagues on climate change in China. He now continues his studies on spatial predictors of health in Detroit. He recently published a preliminary paper on his findings in the Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. He is using the data collected in these studies to understand how urban form is related to obesity and other health outcomes.



Professor Mohamed is co-PI on a \$2.9M grant from the National Science Foundation, Transformative Research in Urban Sustainability Training. T-RUST is an innovative graduate training program at Wayne State University that integrates social and physical science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in an effort to tackle complex challenges in urban sustainability. T-RUST aims to train students using integrated scientific, engineering, and social science approaches combined with innovative policy-making in an effort to foster innovation in urban sustainability. Two MUP students, Natalie Lyon (featured later in this newsletter) and Adam Pruett, have won scholarships through this grant.

Professor Mohamed continues his work with colleagues in the School of Medicine and the College of Engineering using a grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to build a cellphone app to direct patients to DDOT buses they can use to get to medical appointments on time. After four years as National Conference Chair for the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Professor Mohamed stepped down from this role now serves on the Elections Committee of this organization. He is also now in his second year of his term on the Academic Senate at Wayne State; he will be on the Budget Committee this year.

FACULTY UPDATES

Professor Kami Pothukuchi



Professor Kami Pothukuchi had papers published in the Journal of Urban Affairs and the Journal of Planning Literature, the latter co-authored with Melissa Arrowsmith (MUP 2016) and MUP candidate Natalie Lyon. The first investigates access to land for urban agriculture in Cleveland, Ohio, while the second reviews the impacts of hydro-fracking on agri-food systems. Her review of the book, 'From Loncheras to Lobsta Love-Food Trucks, Cultural Identity, and Social Justice' also is forthcoming in the Journal of the American Planning Association. Professor Pothukuchi was invited to deliver lectures on community food systems at University of Heidelberg's (Germany) Center for American Studies (June) and Colorado State University's Lillian Fountain Smith Nutrition Conference (May). In recognition of this work in Detroit, she received the 2017 Legacy Award for Outstanding Service from the Ford Motor Company Fund's College Community Challenge Program. She also served as chair of the ACSP annual conference's Planning Pedagogy track.

Professor Avis Vidal

Professor Avis Vidal spent the last academic year as a Resident Scholar in the WSU Humanities Center, where she continued her on-going research on the revitalization of Midtown and Downtown Detroit. Her interim findings from that research were well-received at last year's Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning conference in Denver, CO (where she also helped a former student celebrate a "major milestone" birthday), and she expects to present the final results of this research at the spring Urban Affairs Association conference in Los Angeles, CA. The highlight of her year was attending the 35th reunion of the first Master of City Planning graduating class she worked with throughout their program: first semester statistics through their final Master's project. Prof Vidal was pleasured to see the full lives they have built, and to rejoice that they remain as committed, optimistic, and fun as they were when they were students. This fall is Prof Vidal's first semester of phased retirement; she will spend up to three years teaching part-time and figuring out what journey



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FACULTY VISIT

https://clasprofiles.wayne.edu/department/urban-studies-and-planning

Understanding Public Perceptions of an Invasive Plant Species in Detroit's Public Parks

Master of Urban Planning Candidate Natalie Lyon is one member of an interdisciplinary research team in the NSF-funded Transformative Research in Urban Sustainability Traineeship (T-RUST) program at Wayne State. The three-person research team consists of Darrin Hunt (PhD Candidate, Biology), Slava Pallas (PhD Candidate, Anthropology), and Lyon. The objective of the project is to draw from the strengths and methods of each field to build an understanding of public perceptions of an invasive wetland grass species, Common Reed Grass (Phragmites australis), within two public parks in the greater metro Detroit region, Belle Isle State Park and Lake St. Clair Metropark. Findings from this research will be used to inform future management practices and actions to increase community engagement and involvement in the management of invasive species within urban park spaces. In late July, the research team travelled

to both parks to gather biological data on species diversity through transects laid near Phragmites stands adjacent to the nature centers in each park. During the month of September, the research team will be preparing for and holding two public community workshops, one in each park, to gather community perspectives and raise awareness of this invasive species' impact in the parks. Preliminary data and findings gleaned from both the transects and workshops will be presented by Lyon at the NRT Annual Meeting in Washington, DC at the end of September.





MUP students present at Innovate Michigan! Summit

Professor Boyle, and MUP candidates Drew Lucco and Timarie Szwed presented *An Assesment of the Maker Economy in Detroit* in September at the 7th Annual Innovate Michigan! Summit held at Michigan State University in September 2018.

Maker 2.0 was a product of the students in Professor Boyle's Urban, Regional and State Economics course (Winter 2018). Students used surveys and in-person interviews to annalyze the evolving Maker Economy in Detroit, and its potential impact on the city's economy as a whole.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Melissa Arrowsmith

MUP 2016



Since graduating from the MUP program, Melissa has been working to combine her urban planning training with her background in historic preservation. She recently became the Detroit Preservation Specialist with the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN), a statewide non-profit organization, where she will be a resource for empowering communities to preserve their history through education, workshops, and advocacy for Detroit's historic places. Before this, Melissa worked in the private sector as an Historic Preservationist with Kraemer Design Group, a downtown Detroit-based architecture firm.

MUP 2018 Andrew Binder

A recent graduate of the MUP program (winter 2018), Andrew was recently hired as the Planning and Zoning Coordinator for the Village of Barrington, Illinois - a Chicago suburb with a population around 10,000 people. Andrew reviews all village permits for zoning compliance and handles all zoning and signage inquires. He also serves as the staff liaison to the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Bike and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.



John Culcasi, AICP

MUP 2016



John works for the Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development as a community planner. He is also a committee member on MAP's Information and Education Committee. This past year, John led a county effort to unify and modernize local community industrial ordinances to better reflect modern development practices and to create a predictable development review process that would optimize the County's business attraction efforts. John continues to advocate for a regional approach in the development of local ordinances and will be pursuing the creation of a model sign ordinance next.

MUP 2018 Irvin Wyche

Recent MUP graduate, Irvin has been working at Mckenna for less than a year in the Detroit office as an Assistant Planner, aiding senior staff in updating plans and quantitative information. He is responsible for reviewing plans and ordinances for cities and townships, executing field work, and reviewing community outreach processes. He works to synthesize ordinances to guide communities through the development process. In addition to the MUP degree, Irvin also received his undergraduate degree in Urban Studies at WSU.

MUP STUDENTS VISIT STEEL CITY

Professor Boyle lead a group of MUP and MSW students on a short study tour of Pittsburgh in April. The study tour allowed students to see how Pittsburgh has, in Professor Boyle's words, "managed to shift from the smokestack to the semi-conductor." The tour allowed students to consider who were the winners and loseres in the newly changed economy of our fellow legacy city.

During their brief study tour students met with the heads of large foundations such as Buhl and Heinz, the head of the Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh's deputy mayor, and prominent grass roots organizers. Students were impressed with the way that these very different stakeholders collaborated with and supported one another.



MUP Students at Bakery Square in Pittsburgh. The building behind the group is identical to the U-Haul building north of WSU's campus. Bakery Square building has been converted into lofts, retail, and office space in the Lamier neighborhood on the city's East End.

In addition to the connectivity amongst organizations and residents, students found that organizers played a "long game," planning for the future that they wanted to see rather than merely the current conditions and issues they were facing.

The group was escorted around Pittsburgh by Jason Tigano. Born and raised in Pittsburgh, Jason was able to give an insiders view of the city and its unique culture. By the

end of the trip Jason even had students speaking Pittsburghese.

The word cloud below is made from





CURRENT STUDENT BIOS

Nicholas Dupuis

2018-2019 DUSP Tuition Scholarship Recipient

Nick is an alumnus of the Urban Studies undergraduate program, and will complete his MUP degree in May 2019. He is currently an intern with the City of Birmingham. He is excited to continue to improve the relationship between the natural and built environments, and hopes to make a large impact in the environmental planning community in the years to come. Nick is also studying for a LEED certification, and plans to take advantage of the AICP candidate program through the APA as soon as the winter semester.



Christina Ignasiak



Christina is a planner at the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) where she focuses on regional transportation planning issues in the Plan and Policy Development group working on the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan for Southeast Michigan. She has a B.S. in Urban and Regional Planning and Environmental and Sustainable Studies from Michigan State University where she was awarded the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) Planning Student of the Year.

Alex Hubbard

Alex recieved her bachelors in Urban Studies from WSU last year, and is in her third semester of the MUP program. This past summer she worked as a contract employee for the Detroit Land Bank Authority, working as a Property Assessment Specialist. Alex is currently assisting the DBLA in a mass assessment project, helping to assess over 11,000 Detroit properties. Prior to working for the DLBA Alex was a graduate assistant for DUSP and assisted the department in preparing for the 2018 PAB reccreditation process. Alex is also an active member and board member of the Urban Planning graduate student organization, WSSUP.



CURRENT STUDENT BIOS

Amanda Oparka

Amanda has B.S. in Geology from Central Michigan University and is finishing up her MUP degree in the Managing Metropolitan Growth concentration this fall (2018). After working at the Clinton River Watershed Council for the last 4 years as a watershed planner, she recently accepted a position at the Macomb County Public Works Commissioner's Office as Environmental Specialist. Amanda is working on asset management planning, habitat restoration projects, GIS mapping, flood mitigation and civic outreach and engagement. In April, Amanda gave birth to her first child, a boy named Keith Raymond Oparka.

Michael Randall

2018-2019 DUSP Tuition Scholarship Recipient

Michael will be joining the MUP program in September 2018, and is a reciepent of a DUSP tuition scholarship. He has devoted his career and life to the development of communities around the country and the world. His expertise include, but are not limited to, public health, urban planning, housing, community enrichment and financial capabilities. He has served on both public and non-profit boards including the Ypsilanti Planning Commission, The Ypsilanti Library Borad of Trustees and Legal Services of South Central Michigan. His entrepreneurial endeavours include owning and operating a full scale creative content and consulting firm, Maureen James Creative Group LLC.



Kristin Shaw

2018-2019 DUSP Tuition Scholarship Recipient

Kristin works as the Manager of Digital & Social Media at Cobo Center, Detroit convention center. In addition to her marketing role, Kristin is responsible for many aspects of the facility's sustainability programs - including a community donation program, green building certification, and beekeeping. She recently spoke on the "Creating Collaborative, Sustainable Solutions for Detroit" panel for Detroit Startup Week, discussing opportunities for a sustainable Detroit. She is co-chair of the Green Task Force: Recycling and Waste Subcommittee. The Green Task Force advises Detroit City Council on principles and practices to better serve the city of Detroit through policy and advocacy. Kristin is also a freelance photographer and currently preparing the test for LEED accreditation. Kristin has been awarded the Michigan Association of Planning's Memorial Scholarship.



CURRENT STUDENT BIOS

Timarie Szwed

2018-2019 Susan M. Smock Scholarship Recipient

Timaire is in her final year of the MUP program, and looks forward to graduating in April with both an MUP degree and a Graduate Certificate in Economic Development. She is currently working as a graduate assistant for DUSP and assisting with the 2018 PAB reacreditation process. In September Timarie, along with Drew Lucco (MUP candidate), presented "Maker 2.0," at the Innovate! Michigan Summit, held at Michigan State University. Maker 2.0 was a project of Professor Boyle's Regional, State, and Urban Economic Development course. The project included both a qualitative and quantitative assement of the maker economiy in Detroit.

Ashaki Zeigler

2018-2019 Galster Endowment Scholarship Recipient



Ashaki Zeigler started off her occupational career as a Jazz and R&B vocalist and teacher. After over 20 years of success in music and 7 years of teaching Zeigler decided to use more of the planning skills that she had developed in her business as an artist. She began her journey in planning in August of 2017. She currently has a bachelors in Special Education and is working on a masters in Urban Planning. Zeigler completed an internship with Eastside Community Network, and was hired as a consultant for a project after the internship.

CONGRATULATIONS 2018-2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Nicholas Dupuis Jessica Hinton Michael Randall Kristin Shaw Timarie Szwed Marcus Wright Ashaki Zeigler

DUSP Tuition Scholarship Alma Young Endowment Scholarship **DUSP Tuition Scholarship DUSP Tuition Scholarship** Sue M. Smock Endowment Scholarship **DUSP Tuition Scholarship** Galster Endowment Scholarship

WSSUP

Wayne State Student Urban Planners

Wayne State Student Urban Planners or WSSUP is a graduate and undergraduate **Urban Planning student organization. This** past year we have connected current students with students of the past at our Winter alumni mixer at Detroit Space Lab downtown. We also attended the annual Student MAP conference at Eastern Michigan University where Amy Alexander and Laura Herberg presented. We also organized a free Sketch Up workshop in the spring where many students were introduced to the Sketch Up software for the first time. We will be kicking off the 2018 Fall semester with a welcome event, which we hope will become an annual tradition.



MUP candidates alumni, and faculty at the Winter alumni mixer held at Detroit Space Lab, organized by WSSUP



Join WSSUP and alum Marissa Morrison for a free SketchUp workshop in the GIS lab on the 2nd Floor of State Hall! Make sure to have an account prior to the workshop.

Email alexihubbs@gmail.com to RSVP



MUP candidates and alum Melissa Morrison at the free Sketch Up workshop organized by WSSUP

NEW MINOR IN URBAN SUSTAINABILITY Fall 2018

The Department is pleased to announce a new Minor in Urban Sustainability! This minor provides students with an opportunity to further their understanding of the myriad issues in fostering environmental preservation, equity, and economic development—the 3-Es of sustainability— in urban areas, while providing them with a foundation for advancing their academic and professional interests in the many directions related to sustainability. The program requires 18 credits, with 11 required credits and seven elective credits. The minor is underpinned by knowledge in urban planning and the wider social sciences, but it gives students opportunities to take science electives if they wish.

The Minor pays attention to particular characteristics of Legacy Cities—Cities impacted by the forces of de-industrialization, de-population, segregation and divisive public policy—features of many Midwestern Cities, including Detroit. These cities contain unique challenges to sustainability, and the new Minor will pay attention to these. Wayne State is the home of many courses that can prepare students to tackle these challenges.

The required classes in the Minor provide students with a ladder to understanding the 3-Es of sustainability. First, in Introduction to Urban Studies (US 2000), students are provided with an introduction to how urban form drives and is driven by socio-economic (often inequitable), cultural, political, and environmental and natural forces, in the context of growing, shrinking post-industrial cities, and revitalizing cities such as Detroit. In Introduction to Urban Geography (GPH 3130) students apply the knowledge gained in US 2000 to a broader global context as they are introduced to urban development patterns across the world. They will be able to not only study how natural, social, political, and economic forces shape and are shaped by cities everywhere, but are also be introduced to contemporary discussions on urban form and climate change.

Finally, a new course, Sustainable Cities (UP 4460), uses the 3-Es of sustainability to explore the ways in which the natural world affects and is affected by both growing and shrinking cities, and how cities may manage growth, shrinkage, or redevelopment to create a more green, just, and prosperous urban future. Students complement these three required classes with seven elective credits.

SUPPORT DUSP!

DUSP is committed to supporting our students in diverse ways. You can help!

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Hire a DUSP student for an internship or a graduate for a job

Lecture in a class on a topic you are an expert on

Write a check - for any amount!

To learn more contact rayman.mohamed@wayne.edu

DEPARTMNET OF URBAN STUDIES AND PLANNING

FACULTY

Rayman Mohamed, Associate Professor, Chair Robin Boyle, Emeritus James H. Carr, Coleman Young Chair, Professor (Research) Patrick Cooper-McCann, Assistant Professor Jeff Horner, Senior Lecturer Carolyn Loh, Associate Professor Kami Pothukuchi, Professor Professor Avis Vidal, Professor

CONTACT DUSP

656 W. Kirby 3198 Faculty Administration Bldg. Wayne State University Detroit, MI 48202

313.577.2701 dusp@wayne.edu www.clas.wayne.edu/DUSP

STAFF



Yvonne J. Maxwell, Administrative Assistant



Stacie Moser, Academic Advisor