Message from Kami Pothukuchi, Chair

AY 2015-16 was a banner year for the department! We salute Distinguished Professor and Clarence Hilberry Chair of Urban Affairs George Galster for his many contributions to the field of urban affairs, recognized this year by a lifetime achievement award by the Urban Affairs Association in April. We also celebrate Carolyn Loh’s promotion to Associate Professor, with tenure. The year was marked by other big and small accomplishments: a brand new Urban Land Institute Endowed Scholarship and an enhanced George and Nancy Galster Endowed Scholarship, the beginnings of a strategic plan for the department, several publications and conference papers by our faculty, a successful pilot of the SEED Wayne Fellowship, closer connections with our alums, and many inspiring examples of leadership by our students.

After kicking off the 2015-16 school year with the annual new student orientation on August 25, 2015, we assembled MUP alumni on October 8, at Buhl’s Bar downtown, taking advantage of the Michigan Association of Planning conference convened nearby concurrently. Amidst much catching up, we honored two alumni, Gary Sands (MUP 1968, also past DUSP Chair) and Erica Raleigh (MUP 2011), for their many contributions to the department. Based on feedback from the event, and with Loh’s help, 10 alums each volunteered to take a current student or two out for a meal in a new mentoring program. We hope to continue this program in AY 2016-17. Alums wanted!

The coming year will bring some changes. Next August, Galster will transition to emeritus status, while Professor Robin Boyle will go part-time. We are hopeful about welcoming a new hire for AY 2017-18. Meanwhile, enrollments are robust. Twenty-seven students were admitted to MUP for fall 2016—we expect nearly all to enroll in classes—with a couple in review for a winter 2017 admission. This is up from 25 admits last fall and winter. Sixty students were registered in Urban Studies in winter, also up from previously. Between spring-summer 2015 and winter 2016, 13 graduated with a MUP and 15 with a BA in Urban Studies. We are ramping up program communications and advising to maintain momentum and improve on these outcomes.

George Galster feted for lifetime contribution to urban affairs scholarship

Distinguished Professor and Clarence Hilberry Chair of Urban Affairs George Galster was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the field of urban affairs at the Urban Affairs Association (UAA) 46th Annual Conference in San Diego, California, in April. He was presented the second ever Contribution to the Field of Urban Affairs Award, which is given to individuals whose body of work has contributed to defining the field.

The reach and impact of Galster’s work is remarkable. His creative and methodologically sophisticated scholarship has challenged conventional thinking and helped shape the field of urban affairs, most notably in the areas of racial and economic segregation, neighborhood effects on individual outcomes, and the impact of subsidized housing and community development investments on surrounding property values.

“I am deeply honored by this award,” said Galster. “There are few things as professionally gratifying as recognition from respected peers. I trust that my award represents their implicit affirmation of my career-long goal to help build cities of justice, opportunity and respect.”

Galster is also an outstanding teacher—his teaching evaluation scores are consistently among the highest in the department—and a generous mentor to students and junior faculty. His work is a continual source of learning and inspiration. His profound influence in the field, particularly in housing and community development, will be felt for years to come.

Congratulations, George!

Former DUSP Chair Gary Sands (MUP 1968), left photo, and Erica Raleigh (MUP 2011), each receive a plaque honoring their many contributions to the department, at the MUP alumni gathering, Oct. 8, 2015.
SMAP Conference at Wayne State

Wayne State hosted the 2016 Michigan Association of Planning Student (SMAP) conference in February. Organized annually, SMAP is led by a student committee with the support of the Michigan Association of Planning. MUP candidates Moe Ayoub and Alex Bilotta helped put the conference together this year. (By the way, both also served on the MAP governing board last year as student representatives). The event drew more than 130 students from seven universities, including Wayne, Michigan, Michigan State, Eastern Michigan, Grand Valley State, Western Michigan and Arizona State University to come together to share experiences and ideas and celebrate planning in Michigan. Wayne State was well represented by both MUP and Urban Studies students. MUP candidates Pablo Golob and Jason Lindy each made presentations on their work.

Packed with keynote speeches, a panel discussion, lecture sessions, a walking tour, and many student presentation, the day-long conference was a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about planning initiatives around the state, connect with other students, and network with professionals.

Faculty News

Professor Robin Boyle is currently researching “Taxicab Services and Mobility in SE Michigan.” With a $35,000 grant, the Metropolitan Detroit Convention and Visitors Bureau (MDCVB) the study investigates alternative mobility services in the tri-county region. Assisted by MUP candidate Jared Talaga, the study looks in depth at the impact of ride-sharing and other technology-enabled mobility services, such as Uber and Lyft. These Transportation Network Companies [TNCs] are disrupting the for-hire taxi industry and pose a series of challenges to transportation policy makers and regulators. The impact of other disruptive technologies such as autonomous vehicles will be part of the research also, with a final report due to the sponsor this summer.

In April, Coleman A. Young Endowed Chair and Professor in Urban Affairs James H. Carr contributed an article to a special series of papers solicited by the Urban Institute on the future of homeownership finance. Titled “America Needs a 21st Century Housing Finance System,” the article represents a departure from the majority of proposals to fix our broken housing finance system. He notes that although the mortgage finance market continues to struggle to recover from its virtual collapse during the Great Recession, the nation also is experiencing a rental housing affordability crisis. Among other proposals, Carr recommends that restructuring the nation’s housing finance system should address owner-occupied and rental housing finance reform together.

Senior Lecturer and Urban Studies Director Jeff Horner remained busy in 2015-16, with duties that included the launch of the inaugural City of Detroit Mayor’s Office of Neighborhoods Internship Program. Horner continues to serve as the Faculty Advisor to the Detroit Revitalization Fellows Program, a WSU initiative funded by local and national foundations that matches accomplished mid-career profes-
Joining with local non-profit organizations and city government agencies engaged in urban redevelopment. He also served on the CLAS Strategic Planning committee, 2015-16. Urban Studies is now the second-fastest-growing undergraduate social science program at WSU, with 20+ percent growth in registered majors over the three most recent academic years.

**Congratulations to Associate Professor Carolyn Loh for receiving tenure and promotion!** Loh had an article accepted by the *Journal of the American Planning Association*, entitled, “Local Land Use Planning Response to Fracking.” Loh and co-author Anna C. Osland argue that local governments do have some room to regulate local fracking operations. They recommend that states invest in building capacity by offering technical assistance and training to local officials. They also stress that communities be proactive and not wait for an industrial accident or the environmental, health or economic costs fracking imposes on localities to add up. On July 25, APA put out a press release on this paper at www.planning.org/blog/blogpost/9107325/. Loh also participated in a colloquy at the Urban Affairs Association Annual Conference on the economic, governance, and planning impacts of shale gas drilling in March. Finally, based on feedback received at the October 2015 Alumni event, Loh initiated an alumni mentorship program in which 10 alums volunteered to have a mentoring conversation with a student or two over a meal. All participants, including 15 students, found it to be useful, and it led to some concrete collaborations.

Associate Professor Rayman Mohamed continued his research during the last year on the QLine in Detroit. With colleagues from outside the department, he completed a pilot study of the rail and will implement a full "before" study in fall 2016. Mohamed and Boyle also collaborate on a U-Haul study that examines the effects of the company's adaptive reuse of a building in the New Center neighborhood. This research was presented at the Integrated Network for Social Sustainability conference in Chicago. Mohamed's recent publications report on research on the spillover effects of sprawl on accidents, modeling various international climate financing regimes, and the relationships between sustainability and adaptive reuse. Commentaries he wrote on driverless cars and on the QLine were recently published, respectively, in the *Detroit Free Press* and the *Detroit News*. He continues to serve as the National Conference Chair for the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning.

Invited to lecture at Western Michigan’s *Reimagining Community* Series sponsored by their Center for Humanities, Associate Professor and Chair Kami Pothukuchi did so on March 17. She also facilitated a community dialogue the following day, on campus-community food system collaborations. SEED Wayne student leaders Tyler Shelton (MUP Candidate), Adam Pruett (MUP Applicant 2016), and Slava Pallas (Anthropology) accompanied her to Kalamazoo. Pothukuchi was also invited to participate on a panel on access to healthy food at the Mayor’s Summit on Health Equity, at Wayne State University on May 3-4. Finally, the SEED Wayne Fellowship led by her kicked off successfully this year.

Professor Avis Vidal is spending the summer working to complete her five-year analysis, begun in 2011, of efforts to jump-start the housing market in Midtown and Downtown. Clearly something has worked, but what? She has also started research for a new book chapter on the challenges of combining community development and community organizing to revitalize neighborhoods. Also on the agenda: finally advancing some much needed home improvements, and perhaps squeezing in a short vacation to Holland (…no, not the Netherlands…sigh.)

Emeritus Professor Gary Sands and MSU Professor Laura Reese, formerly with DUSP, published new research to support the claim that cities should focus on the basics if they wish to redevelop. In research presented in their upcoming book, “Roads to Prosperity,” the two found no relationship between catchy redevelopment programs and economic growth. Sands also gave a talk...
last year at a housing conference in Liverpool, UK, about Detroit’s housing market. The conference resulted in an edited book, "Housing the Future," which includes pieces from four DUSP alums, Anna (King) Pinter (MUP 2015), Erica Raleigh (MUP 2011), Sylvia Tatman-Burruss (MUP 2015) and Noah Urban (MUP 2012).

Scholarship Awards, 2015-16

- George and Nancy Galster Endowed Scholarship Award, August 2015, Edward Lynch (MUP 2015), Raphael B. Blake (MUP 2015).
- Sue Marx Smock Endowed Scholarship Award, August 2015, Matthew Lewis (MUP 2015).
- David H. Shepherd Endowed Scholarship Award, December 2015, Dan Commer (Urban Studies major).
- William C. Smith Tuition Scholarship, August 2015, Andrew Lucco (MUP applicant, 2015).
- DUSP Recruitment Tuition Scholarship, August 2015, Tanya Markos-Vanno (MUP applicant, 2015).
- Graduate School Retention Scholarship, December 2015, Moe Ayoub (MUP Candidate).
- Graduate School Professional Scholarship 2016-17, July, Christina Ignasiak (MUP applicant, 2016).

DUSP Goes Abroad: Toronto, Canada

After a long hiatus, DUSP offered an international study tour this spring-summer semester. Seventeen MUP and Urban Studies majors signed up for an intensive four-day visit to Toronto, Canada. This tour was offered as part of a special topics course, UP 5999: Contemporary Urban Planning in a Global Context. Taught by Professor Robin Boyle and Emeritus Professor Gary Sands, with assistance from MUP candidate Pablo Golob, the course addressed the global urban agenda through the lens of the immigrant in the city, with a comparative case study of Detroit and Toronto. Prior to the trip, students studied global urban trends, Habitat III, Canadian urban planning, and learned about immigrants’ role in urban transformation. MSU Professor Laura Reese and Steve Tobocman, head of Global Detroit, met with the class.

The visit included guided tours by Professor Pierre Filion of the University of Waterloo, talks by local planners and others working in the city and its ethnic/immigrant neighborhoods, and a presentation by Ken Greenberg, one of Canada’s leading urban planners/designers. The group also visited the famous Regents Park redevelopment program and spent an afternoon in Markham, a suburban city (pop. 301,000), home to a large Chinese community. Guided by local planner and recent graduate from planning programs at both Waterloo and Ryerson Universities, Phillip Lui, the Markham tour greatly increased their understanding of the impact of immigrant groups in the growth and dynamism of Toronto.

At the end of the course, students made presentations to guests on a variety of planning topics comparing Toronto and Detroit.

On the Toronto waterfront with University of Waterloo Professor Pierre Filion (far right). From left: Professor Robin Boyle, Chelsea Stauffer, Amanda Opara, Tyler Shelton, Shellee Brooks, Amy Farkas, Moe Ayoub, Katrina Rinehart, Emily Smith, Leah Deasy, Pablo Golob, Sarah Rich, Melissa Arrowsmith, Cora Capler, Alex Bilotta, Laura Diotte, Matthew Clayton (hidden). Emeritus Professor Gary Sands captured the shot.
Alumni News

T. J. Auer (MUP 2016) is a Community Planner with United Way Neighbourhood Renewals in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. He primarily works in the Ford City neighbourhood and consults on the other neighbourhood strategies in the city. He also was a panelist at the Congress of New Urbanism, CNU 24 Detroit, June 8-11.

Jason Bibby (MUP 2005) left AECOM in late 2015 to join Clearzoning as a senior planner. The firm was recently acquired by Giffels Webster, a Detroit-headquartered consulting firm specializing in infrastructure and land development solutions. Bibby is excited to apply his multi-disciplinary project-related background with a focus on sustainability, non-motorized transportation, land use, and environmental elements working in both the private and public sector.

Since 2012, Kibibi Blount-Dorn (MUP 2010) has worked as a Program Manager at the Detroit Food Policy Council. She oversees community education and engagement activities, and organizes the annual Detroit Food Summit, now in its 7th year. A lifelong Detroiter and long-term gardener, Blount-Dorn has previously worked with Detroit Summer, the Garden Resource Program Collaborative, Eastern Market Corporation, and the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network, among others. She lives in Detroit with Rachel, her wife of 12 years, and their sons, Sebastian, age 8, and Elijah, age 3.

Last December, John Cruz (MUP 2012) started at Rise Community Development in St. Louis, Missouri. As a data management coordinator, he helps the community understand the city through GIS visual data and use data to drive real estate decisions for Rise’s development. He is also working on community and economic development efforts and is an active member in the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership. Still new to the city (as of last August) after a two-year sabbatical in Montreal, Cruz has found this position to be a great way to gain on-the-ground learning to see what makes St. Louis special and what lessons can be learned from his ancestral homeland of Detroit to improve the Gateway to the West.

Preparing for the coming regional transit, Tom Habitz (MUP 2008) recently took a spin on some transportation systems of the world. They include the Mexico City subway (1.6 billion passengers per year), the Sofia, Bulgaria, Metro (with a shiny new segment funded by the EU), and the Deutsche Bahn around Germany (always on time). Back home, he is working on site development for the new Henry Ford Heath System Cancer Center on West Grand Blvd.

You may have seen FULD President and Challenge Detroit finalist Shelby Holmes (BA 2016, MUP Applicant 2016) in the Detroit News working for Eastern Market to start farm stands in local schools, in collaboration with Detroit Public Schools’ Office of School Nutrition.

Katie Johnson (MUP 2013) continues to be busy working for the Safe Routes to School program at the Michigan Fitness Foundation. In addition to managing SRTS grant program, she chairs the Healthy Kids, Healthy Michigan, Physical Activity Community Policy Action Team and the Michigan Health & Wellness 4 x 4 Incentives Taskforce. She also continues to volunteer for Girls on the Run, Destination Imagination, and Meals on Wheels. Finally, she has traveled this year and to Las Vegas, Denver, Poland, and the Czech Republic.

A Toledo native, Brittany Jones (MUP 2015) is dedicated to spreading awareness of food policy and the local food system. Equipped with a journalism degree from Ohio State University and a MUP from WSU, Jones is founding CEO of Growing Back to Your Roots, an organization dedicated to developing ‘conscious consum-
ers’ by strengthening the relationship between citizens and their local food system.” Jones also works as the School and Summer Nutrition Manager for Children’s Hunger Alliance, an Ohio non-profit, where she strives to ensure that children have access to nutritious meals. This fall, she will attend the University of Toledo’s Socially Integrated Social Sciences (SISS) doctoral program. She is grateful for her time at WSU, because it helped her find her passion for the food system!

Breanna Lockhart (BA 2015) was hired as a CompStat analyst for the Center for Urban Studies. In addition, she serves as a coordinator for Detroit Youth Service Corps -- a non-profit that employs seniors or recent graduates from Detroit Public Schools.

Drew Lucco (BA 2015 and MUP applicant 2015) is working at the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation with the Motor City Match program, to help Detroit small businesses become more efficient and environmentally sustainable.

Claire Nowak-Boyd (BA 2013) works as a Planner I for the City of Flint, MI, where she staffs the Planning and Zoning Office and supports the Planning Commission, the Historic District Commission, and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Selected to be an Ideas City Detroit Fellow, she spent a week collaborating with an international group of colleagues to generate ideas for the city’s future. Nowak-Boyd also received a scholarship to attend the Congress for the New Urbanism 24, where she presented in the Big Ideas + Small Projects Happy Hour.

Mike Rafferty (MUP 2011) is the Vice President of Small Business Services at the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation. He is responsible for developing and leading strategies, programs, and initiatives that support new and existing businesses in their efforts to thrive in Detroit. Rafferty has served on the boards of a number of nonprofit organizations including the Eight Mile Boulevard Association, the Woodward Avenue Action Association, Eastside Community Network, and LAND Inc. Honored with DUSP’s Sue Marx Smock Award, he was also recognized with the Business Visionary Award from the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Brooklyn, New York. He lives in Detroit with his wife, Heidi Reijm, and 4-year-old son, Nigel, and dogs, Oslo and Fiona.

Noah Urban (MUP 2012) was recently promoted to Senior Analyst and Project Lead at Data Driven Detroit. Now, he coordinates the work of D3’s analytical team and directs work on the organization’s portfolio of projects, while continuing to engage in mapping, data analysis, and outreach work. He tied the knot with Becky Wilinski, his college sweetheart of more than eight years, in Lansing, on May 29th. Our best wishes to Noah and Becky!

Tonya Tosspon (BA 2016) and Irvin Wyche (BA 2016, MUP Applicant 2016) worked with Grace Episcopcal Church to start up “Hearts for Homes,” a non-profit to end homelessness in Macomb County.

A native Detroiter, Robin West Smith (MUP 2009), earned a BA in Economics, MUP, a Graduate Certificate in Economic Development, and an MA in Sociology at Wayne State University. She is also a Certified Project Management Professional with the International Project Management Institute, and certified trainer with the Professional Woman Network in Kentucky, co-authoring seven books for PWN Publishing. Recently promoted to PTF2, she teaches Introduction to Urban Studies at WSU. West Smith served as the keynote speaker for the First United Methodist Church Women’s History Month luncheon. She currently is building her own company brand as a self-development leader with the WADE
Center for Self-Development, LLC, focusing on training seminars and workshops.

**Current Students**

**Keiara Bell** (MUP applicant 2016) was keynote speaker at the May commencement ceremonies.

**Dan Commer** (BA+MUP, AGRADE applicant) interned with Southwest Solutions during spring semester and was subsequently hired to help kick start the Michigan Avenue Business Association.

**Alex Hubbard** (Urban Studies major) interned this year for the Department of Neighborhoods for the City of Detroit in District 7.

**Savannah Robbins** (Urban Studies major) is currently interning with the Detroit Department of Transportation to optimize bus routes and schedules.

MUP candidate **Jared Talaga** won 2nd place in the Innovating Planning Apps for Planners: A Student and Emerging Professional Challenge, in Phoenix, AZ, at the American Planning Association Conference (April 2016). A crowdsourcing app, AccessPoint allows users to understand ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) regulations, rate a building’s level of accessibility, know which buildings are easy for people with different abilities to use, and allow them to conveniently report ADA violations to their planning jurisdiction. Users can then choose whether or not to be patrons at particular establishments, thereby using their market power to drive all buildings to increase their accessibility and inclusivity.

**2016 Master’s Essays**

**T.J. Auer’s** (MUP 2016) master’s essay, *Planning for Success in Previously Developed Geographies*, is a parcel-based GIS conformance analysis of future land use policy. This analysis examines whether the future land use designations in an older, previously developed area meet the location criteria outlined for those land uses. It then examines whether existing zoning permits proposed land use designations. This analysis was developed for previously developed areas with depressed property markets to identify land use challenges that are ingrained in the planning policy. Such challenges threaten to prevent or delay the transition of a community back to vibrancy. For areas that have stagnated, the essay makes the case that it is important to plan and align policy proactively to foster revitalization.

For her master’s essay, **Amy Farkas** (MUP 2016) collaborated with the non-profit Pathway to Potential (P2P) to create an Equity Atlas for Windsor-Essex County. An Equity Atlas is a spatial measure of the degree to which residents of a geographic area can access key opportunities. Essential resources, including housing, education, transportation and employment, are spatially presented in a series of maps to determine if there is an equitable distribution of resources across a region. Farkas used transportation and employment measures to identify transportation gaps across Windsor-Essex County. The analysis revealed a spatial mismatch between job-seekers and low-skilled jobs due to the limitations of the existing transportation networks. Farkas argues that Windsor-Essex County would benefit from a coordinated transit network with partnerships across the county, in conjunction with alternative transportation options, including employer shuttle services.

**News from Student Groups**

Consisting of graduate and undergraduate students interested in urban planning issues, **Wayne State Student Urban Planners** (WSSUP) provides a forum for conversation, networking, and innovation. WSSUP connects WSU students with resources and opportunities within and outside the university. Over the years, we have hosted guest speakers, attended conferences and networking events, collaborated with local organizations, and organized volunteer opportunities. This year, members of
WSSUP and FULD partnered with Grand Valley State students to distribute water in Flint, Michigan.

The Black Student Association in Urban Studies and Planning (BSAUSP) promotes academic and professional development and offers networking opportunities to students in urban studies and planning. To learn more, write Anthony.todd@wayne.edu.

The Future Urban Leaders of Detroit hosted several events this year. In November, along with students from UD-Mercy, Lawrence Tech, University of Michigan and Marygrove College, FULD (pronounced ‘fueled’), hosted the Students in Motion Transit Conference at WSU’s Student Center. The conference discussed the region’s public transportation issues, featuring presentations by City of Detroit Planning Director Maurice Cox, Ben Stupka of the Southeast Michigan Regional Transit Authority, Neil Greenberg of the Detroit Department of Transportation, and Bill Kirk of Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc. In April 2016, FULD hosted a Q&A with members of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) addressing career options after graduation. Special thanks to FULD member Tonya Tosspon (BA 2016) for organizing the event, and to Daniel Cousino of Honigman, alums Caitlin (Malloy) Marcon (MUP 2008) and Matteo Passalacqua (MUP 2011) for sharing their expertise.

Addressing quality of life issues in the city, FULD’s regular lecture series began in April kicking off with, “Who Lives There: Race and Housing in Detroit.” A FULD group regularly participates in Motor City Makeover days. To learn more or participate, write Shelby Holmes (dy0025@wayne.edu) or Drew Lucco (andrew.lucco@wayne.edu).

Urban Land Institute (ULI) Detroit District Council Endowed Scholarship Award

With a $25,000 gift, this scholarship recognizes scholastic achievement, encourages continued progress, and provides assistance to students in financing their education. Full-time and part-time, graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in or accepted for study in DUSP are eligible. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required. To learn more or contribute to this fund, write k.pothukuchi@wayne.edu.

SEED Wayne Fellowship

Sponsored by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and the Ford Motor Company Fund, the SEED Wayne Fellowship was successfully piloted this year. Comprising of UP 5430, Cities and Food, and UP 7810, Internship in Community Food Systems Planning, the first round of the fellowship will be completed by four candidates at the end of this summer, with four others potentially completing it in May 2017. Community partners in the internship include the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network, Bandhu (Banglatown) Gardens, Growing Hope (Ypsilanti), and Oakland Avenue Community Gardens. To learn more browse: SEED Wayne.