Message from Kami Pothukuchi, Chair

There are many comings and goings to note this year. First, a hearty welcome to Patrick Cooper-McCann, who will join DUSP faculty starting fall as assistant professor. Students and colleagues alike will benefit from his passion for cities and deep knowledge of Detroit. Second, George Galster, now Distinguished Professor and Clarence Hilberry Chair Emeritus of Urban Affairs, was honored at a retirement party, May 5, by students, alums, faculty and friends, who shared memories and bid him a fond farewell. Third, Professor Robin Boyle has filed for phased retirement starting AY 2017-18, which should give him more time to pursue his interests in research and professional engagement. Fourth, on leave during this calendar year, Jim Carr, Coleman Young Professor of Urban Affairs (Research), will return January 2018 to teach a course each in the Urban Studies and Urban Planning programs.

Finally, after finishing up my tenure as chair in August, I will be on leave during the fall term, returning to a full teaching schedule in winter 2018. Students interested in urban design and/or community food system issues should consider signing up for one or both of the courses, based on their plan of work or as recommended by their faculty advisor.

Meanwhile, DUSP’s vital statistics are strong. Numbers of admits to the MUP Program, newly declared Urban Studies majors, those enrolled in classes, and graduates in each program, all are holding steady, more or less similar to last year’s patterns. As in the past, DUSP alums have been active in the life of the department. Read about alumni/ae mentors to students in this newsletter.

Associate Professor Rayman Mohamed will take the helm as Interim Chair. DUSP has a full agenda for this next year: preparing for the re-accreditation of the MUP degree; possibly recruiting and hiring new faculty pending the requisite permissions; facilitating the ‘tenure’ review of Academic Advisor Cynthia Merritt, and keeping the trains running on time with course scheduling, admissions, and the rest. We wish him well in this important new role!

Patrick Cooper-McCann joins DUSP as Assistant Professor

A scholar of urban governance, race relations, and equity, Patrick Cooper-McCann will join DUSP in fall 2017 as Assistant Professor. He is currently completing his doctoral dissertation at the University of Michigan’s Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

A history of parkland in the city, Cooper-McCann’s dissertation, ‘Parks, Recreation, and Race in Detroit, 1805-2015,’ compares the roles played by different sectors of society—government, business, philanthropy, and community—in the provision of parkland and related facilities over time. Among other contributions, it chronicles African-American residents’ struggle for equity and inclusion in the urban environment. A key finding is that ‘neoliberal’ governance strategies that are the subject of much recent discussion, have been in use since the 1920s to compensate for local government’s unwillingness, and later inability, to adequately provide services to black communities. Cooper-McCann plans to extend this research to other cities and has begun an investigation of the rescaling of park management from one public entity to another in Cleveland.

Cooper, as he calls himself, is active in scholarly networks on legacy cities. For example, as the lead organizer of the “Detroit School” series at UM, he helped convene scholars from around the world to examine if and how Detroit’s experiences with deindustrialization and abandonment and related planning dilemmas potentially offer new ways of understanding cities and urban dynamics. These experiences should be invaluable to students and colleagues alike at Wayne State.

Cooper-McCann comes with high praise. His dissertation committee members note his “intense intellectual curiosity” and his interest in engaging with other scholars. They find him to be an “outstanding scholar” and a “brave thinker” with a commitment to social justice and “the greater public good.”

In 2017-18, he will teach courses on community development and neighborhood revitalization in the MUP degree program, and introduction to urban studies in the undergraduate Urban Studies program. DUSP faculty welcome Patrick Cooper-McCann as he starts his professorial career at Wayne State!
Emeritus Professor George Galster!

Distinguished Professor and Hilbertry Chair Emeritus of Urban Affairs, George Galster was warmly celebrated for a distinguished career at Wayne State at a retirement party attended by more than 60 students, alumni/ae, colleagues and friends. Although Galster is officially retired, the emeritus status means that he is not entirely untethered from DUSP!

Emceed by Chair Kami Pothukuchi, the event at Jacoby’s featured brief highlights of Galster’s career at Wayne, a moving testimonial from alumna Erica Raleigh (MUP 2011), a proclamation from the City Council of Detroit read by former DUSP Chair Gary Sands, and a word-art assembled from a 5-word assessment of Galster’s teaching obtained from each of his students in winter 2017. The grand finale came in the form of quotes read from a book of memories from Galster’s colleagues and students around the world, assembled and presented by Professor Robin Boyle. Boyle should also be credited with organizing the event with Administrative Assistant Yvonne Maxwell’s help. In brief remarks, Galster thanked attendees for holding his legacy and carrying it forward.

Soon after the event, Galster relocated to Portland, OR, to join wife Nancy who herself retired a few years ago from Wayne State’s I. D. Reid Honors College. Au revoir, George and Nancy!

DUSP Goes Abroad: Study Tour to Germany

Over Spring Break in March, 16 MUP students visited Germany on an intensive study tour developed as a three-credit course. Designed and led by Professor Robin Boyle, and implemented with assistance from several colleagues at the TU Dortmund and Humboldt University, Berlin, the class was exposed to planning in the Ruhr and in the nation’s capital, Berlin. Through lectures, community connections and site visits, the study tour concentrated on two intersecting urban issues in both locations: the immigrant in the city and urban/economic change in the context of the deindustrialization.

On their return, students were required to make two presentations and submit a final paper. They chose a variety of topics—public space, transportation, brownfield redevelopment, refugee resettlement, and others, and framed them in interesting ways.

Student perspectives

In his term paper, Nick Dupuis (MUP candidate) wrote what several students expressed in other ways: “The experience I had in the Ruhr opened my eyes to how creative human beings can be if policy and legislation allow for it. I got to see the Emscher Landscape Park, the Gasometer in Oberhausen, the Mining Museum in Essen, Lake Phoenix-See in Dortmund and many other world class examples of how environmental planning can be the base for revitalization in an urban area. Using the strategies of brownfield redevelopment and historic preservation, I believe I was able to prove that concentrating on the environment and the best policies and practices surrounding it can help redefine a region’s economy and promote a healthy region.”

This from MUP candidate Christina Ignasiak: There is immense importance in reading a textbook, taking notes at a lecture, and listening to others’ research. I believe, though, that one of the most genuine ways to gain knowledge is through travel. Being vulnerable and open to learning about
others’ cultures, politics, geographies, and history teaches you how to think critically. Professor Robin Boyle planned the Germany study tour in a way that was perfectly balanced, highlighting various facets of planning while also allowing for opportunities and connections that would have been impossible to experience on our own.

Along with classroom and site visits with planning professors and professionals in Dortmund and Berlin, the trip was also filled with components that are now synonymous to me with Germany: schnitzel and cabbage at every meal (or Doner if you’re lucky); serious faces (followed by warm smiles); efficient and seamless public transportation (foreign to us Detroiters); techno dance clubs (only the very elite are allowed in); spaghetti-shaped ice cream (exactly what you are picturing); sustainable reuse of industrial land (this IS possible!); and local beverages that often were cheaper than water (consumed only for research purposes, of course!).

When the study tour was first announced, I was sitting amidst classmates who were all but strangers. Having done the study tour with many of them, I see them now as colleagues who are destined to do great things in planning, but also as friends whom I respect and admire deeply. I look forward to more opportunities to learn in a less traditional and more experiential way. This was one of the most enriching educational experiences that Wayne State has provided us. PROST!

Scholarship Awards, 2016-17

♦ DUSP Tuition Scholarship: Andrew Binder, Brendan Donahue, Brian Tillery, Irvin Wyche
♦ Galster Endowed Scholarship: Kaci Jackson
♦ Graduate Professional Scholarship: Andrew Lucco
♦ Sue M. Smock Scholarship: Justin Lyons

Faculty News

Professor Robin Boyle co-authored a piece on “Adaptive reuse: A review and analysis of its relationship to the 3 E’s of sustainability,” along with Associate Professor Rayman Mohamed, U-Haul executive Allan Yang and alumnus Joe Tangari (MUP 2013). Boyle also led 16 MUP students on a study tour in Germany over spring break.

On leave this year, Coleman A. Young Endowed Professor (Research) in Urban Affairs James H. Carr is working on several projects, including strategies to increase the wealth of African-American families.


Associate Professor Carolyn Loh recently completed a study of the Michigan Municipal League’s PlacePlans initiative, which aims to help Michigan cities implement placemaking plans in their downtowns. A key finding of the study is that PlacePlans gave cities an expanded sense of the possibilities and created new energy around planning and economic development. Loh also co-authored a paper that was published in the Journal of the American Planning Association in spring. Written with Rod Arroyo, Partner and Director of Community Planning at Giffels Webster, the paper reported on special ethical considerations for planners in private practice. It found that such planners confront a wide range of ethically demanding situations, but have clear ideas of how to handle them. A key concern that private practice planners have, from the study, is unethical business practices by other firms.

Associate Professor Rayman Mohamed has papers out in Urban Affairs Review (2017, ‘Why might developers be reluctant to build conservation subdivision developments?’), Facilities (2017, ‘Adaptive reuse,’ co-authored with Robin Boyle and Joe Tangari) and Frontiers of Earth Science (2017, An agent-
based model to project China’s energy consumption and carbon emission peaks at multiple levels, co-authored with J. Wu and Z. Wang). The first shows that lots that are located close to each other bring prices down for both. Bottom line: Americans do not like density. The second paper observes that dominant adaptive reuse practices typically address only two nodes of the well-known sustainability triangle: environment and economic development. Missing are concerns about equity. The final paper examines the effects of different financing schemes on climate change.

With colleagues in Computer Science and the Medical School at Wayne State, Mohamed also won a grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to build a cell-phone app to direct patients to DDOT buses they can use to get to medical appointments on time. This project is implemented in collaboration with the McAuley Health Center of the University of Detroit, Mercy.

Finally, since 2016, Mohamed has served as National Conference Chair for the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP).

Associate Professor and Chair Kami Pothukuchi had four papers out or under review for publication in the Journal of Urban Affairs; Journal of Planning Literature; and Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development. Two papers each address vacant land disposition in Detroit and Cleveland for urban agriculture. Despite their varied approaches to urban and land governance, both cities share a reluctance to grant long-term access to land for agriculture. Another paper, written with Melissa Arrowsmith (MUP 2016) and MUP candidate Natalie Lyon, reviews the scholarship on the implications of hydraulic fracturing for food systems. The last is an analysis of findings from Detroit FRESH—the healthy corner store program, which identified neighborhood and store factors in successful stores.

In winter, Pothukuchi delivered a keynote at the 2017 Detroit Food Summit, and lectured at three venues to audiences consisting of public health and planning professionals and students at the University of Quebec, Montreal. She also served as chair of the ACSP conference track on planning pedagogy. She will be on leave during the fall semester.


News from Alums

A Senior Planner with the City of Dearborn, Mohamed ‘Moe’ Ayoub (MUP 2016) is helping the city prioritize sustainability and non-motorized transportation, among other things. Recently, he helped secure a grant to create a form-based code for the city’s two downtowns and more than $3 million for bicycle-related infrastructure, and successfully proposed more than 50 amendments to a Zoning Ordinance that dates from 1993. Ayoub staffs the Planning Commission, prepares reports for the Mayor and other administrators, and sets goals and policies for the city’s Planning Division.

In January, Melissa Arrowsmith (MUP 2016) started work as a Historic Preservationist for Kraemer Design Group, a downtown Detroit architecture and design firm. She uses her preservation and urban planning background to assist clients through local, state, and national historic processes. Working closely with entities such as the Detroit Historic District Commission and the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office, she enjoys bringing adaptive reuse projects to fruition and preserving Detroit’s unique architectural and cultural heritage.

Tyler Bevier (BA 2014) moved to Traverse City and has been with the Bay Area Transportation Authority since July 2016. He serves as transportation planner for the two-county transit authority, working on ridership,
routing, data analysis, and community engagement. The transportation authority recently sought a 40% tax increase from residents, which passed in May. Bevier says the increase will allow for buses every 15 minutes, as well as technology updates including mobile fare payment and real-time bus tracking, and the start of park-n-ride efforts for Traverse City.

Dustin Hagfors (BA 2013, MUP 2016) works for the Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) as a transportation planner. He also volunteers with the Ferndale Downtown Development Authority’s Design Committee. This past year, Hagfors spearheaded the “Putting the Art in SMART” campaign in Ferndale where a bus shelter was transformed into a functional piece of art. This project has received significant media attention as well as awards from the Ferndale Beautification Commission and Main Street Oakland County.

A lifelong Detroiter, Jessica Hinton (BA 2014) works at Detroit Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) as Administrative Program Assistant. She is responsible for collecting data from LISC’s various programs, processing and monitoring program actions, disbursing grants, and maintaining program records. Hinton previously worked at MOSES as Project Coordinator. She will join the MUP program in fall.

In her sixth year as Assistant Program Officer at Detroit LISC, Stephanie Inson (MUP 2016) serves as local liaison for the AmeriCorps program, ensures HUD grantee compliance, provides support to the Detroit Community Development Financial Institutions Coalition, and manages grants and contracts for neighborhood organizations and initiatives in Detroit. She lives in Detroit where she continues to cultivate her love of urban agriculture and local food systems.

Brandon McKinney (BA 2017) was granted an audience by Tommy Wiseau, producer and director auteur of the award-winning film "The Room," a penetrating study of the challenges and struggles encountered by modern millennials in one of the most modern American cities, San Francisco.

Martha Potere (MUP 2014) recently took a job as Economic Development Executive with the City of Hamtramck, where she will work on business attraction and retention for Michigan’s densest, most diverse city. Potere will also graduate from the Urban Land Institute Michigan’s Larson Center for Leadership in June and complete her tenure as a member of the Detroit Revitalization Fellows’ third cohort this July. Last December, Potere said ‘yes’ to Steven Wiltse (MUP 2014), with the wedding set for October. The two moved into their historic Hubbard Farms home in May.

Sylvia Tatman-Burruss (MUP 2015) recently became the Development Review Liaison for the City of Fort Collins, her hometown in Colorado. She works closely with development review planners to facilitate neighborhood meetings, keeps the public informed about development projects, and is the Project Manager for the creation of a new Citizens’ Planning Academy. Tatman-Burruss also works with the Comprehensive Plan Update Team on community engagement strategies to collect resident input from across the city, and will assist neighborhood groups with their applications for the new Vibrant Neighborhoods Grant. She looks forward to spending time in the mountains this summer with husband Nick Francis who will join her in June.

Steven Wiltse (MUP 2014) works as a planner and data analyst for the newly reformed Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD). He is engaged in a number of projects, including the planning implications of merging DPSCD and the Education Achievement Authority (EAA) school districts, developing dashboards to address chronic student absenteeism in real time, and pushing for progressive transportation policies...
to better serve students and families. He will tie the knot with Martha Potere at the Yamasaki-designed Reflecting Pools at Wayne State’s McGregor Memorial Conference Center.

**Peter Zeiler** (MUP 2000) has led the creation of a three-year strategic plan for the new Mecklenburg County (N.C.) Office of Economic Development, facilitated a comprehensive small business ecosystem analysis, and begun hiring based on these reports. Next up is an analysis of the County’s workforce development, and developing programs and policies to enhance economic mobility for residents. Zeiler’s team is also expanding its job creation incentive program to the growing suburbs of Mecklenburg County to better align housing and employment center mixes. His wife, Bhavna Gvalani, and he welcomed their daughter Lylah Savitri on March 18.

A team in which **Xiao (Amy) Zhou** (MUP 2015) participated in the WSU Hackathon competition took first prize in the event’s advanced level as well as in its “use of Echo Dot Voice service” and “venture funding one-hour consultation.” The contest attracted more than 300 participants. Zhou’s team worked on a project intended to increase pedestrian safety in suburban communities. She is currently taking pre-requisites for the Civil Engineering/Transportation Engineering Ph.D. program at Wayne State.

**Updates from Current Students**

MUP candidate **Caitlyn Berard** is currently interning with the City of Albion as the city’s Community Development Planner. In addition, she was recently hired by the Albion Economic Development Corporation as the Albion Food Hub Director. She enjoys these challenging positions, despite the long commute to and from WSU.

MUP candidate **Kaci Jackson** works as a Mortgage Loan Processor with Opportunity Resource Fund, a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) in Detroit. The organization works to process, underwrite and fund the Detroit 0% Home Repair Loan, which is administered by LISC and funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. A licensed loan officer and real estate agent, Jackson was impressed by OCR’s record in the community. Recently, Jackson won two scholarships through the ESA Foundation, and also was awarded the George and Nancy Galster Endowed Scholarship which recognizes all round excellence among DUSP graduate students.
A senior majoring in urban studies and public affairs, **Kate Parrington** is currently interning with Detroit’s Planning and Development Department. She recently sat on a student panel to discuss talent retention in Detroit and what makes the city attractive to young working professionals, moderated by Kim Trent, at Downtown Detroit Partnership’s annual meeting. The meeting was attended by 1,000 people, including Mayor Mike Duggan. Parrington was referred for the panel by Senior Lecturer Jeff Horner and Professor Robin Boyle.

MUP candidate **Timarie Szwed** is co-authoring a paper on ethical and holistic approaches to privacy for vehicle to infrastructure (V2X) connected vehicles. She is researching the policy and planning implications of privacy issues resulting from these technological innovations. A first collaboration with her brother, a computer engineering professor at Cal Polytechnic, the paper will be published in fall. In addition, Szwed is preparing to test for her black belt in Tae Kwon Do, in which she trains alongside her father and two of her children (pictured above, Johanna, right, and Lucas).

MUP candidate **Kenyetta Walker** recently volunteered with Homeless Action Network of Detroit (HAND) to create GIS layers to update their paper maps of the neighborhood boundaries for the Point in Time Count 2017. Walker’s contribution has increased accessibility of the data and efficiency of the collection process, according to John Stoyka (MUP 2013), Director of Housing Programs at Community and Housing Supports, Inc., who oversaw the work. The Point In Time Count is an annual count of people who are experiencing homelessness in Detroit on one night in January.

**DUSP Student Groups**

MUP candidates **Natalie Lyon** and **Adam Pruett** founded the Detroit Biodiversity Network in winter, along with **Stathis Pauls** (former WSU Farmers Market Leader and Urban Studies minor). DBN’s mission is to engage students in hands-on projects to support and improve the sustainability of urban ecosystems on Wayne State University’s campus and in surrounding Detroit communities. DBN engages students in workshops related to growing food plants, mushrooms, and native plants, and partners with SEED Wayne to grow food on campus at the Warrior Garden.

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, the group has hosted guest speakers, attended conferences and networking events, collaborated with local organizations, and organized volunteer opportunities. WSSUP is Wayne State’s planning student group officially recognized by the American Planning Association.

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.

With its membership of graduate and undergraduate students and also including non-DUSP students, **Future Urban Leaders of Detroit** (FULD, pronounced “fueled”) organizes panels, workshops, and volunteer events related to urban sustainability and redevelopment. FULD members have helped organize the Student Michigan Association of Planning conference over the last couple of years. Last fall, they pooled rides to the SMAP conference held in East Lansing.
SEED Wayne moves to OCS
WSU Farmers Market returns in 2018

Director Kami Pothukuchi is taking a hiatus from leading SEED Wayne. SW projects, minus the Wayne State University Farmers Market, will move to the Office of Campus Sustainability (OCS). The Wayne State Farmers Market will be managed in 2018 and beyond, jointly by OCS and the Center for Health and Community Impact (CHCI), the latter located in the College of Education.

Led by Daryl Pierson (MUP 2012), OCS seeks to infuse sustainability concepts—such as energy efficiency, materials reduction and recycling, and related education—in university facilities and operations. Since 2012, Pierson also has helped with WSU Farmers Market’s food stamp operations, which supplement impoverished households’ food budgets. Although new to WSU Farmers Market operations, CHCI leads many projects related to nutrition and physical activity in schools and community settings. On break this year, the WSU Farmers Market will return in June 2018.

Don and Diane at the VanHoutte Farms stall help customers at the Wayne State Farmers Market in 2016. The market is on hiatus this year pending transfer of management of market operations jointly to the Office of Campus Sustainability and Center for Health and Community Impact. Photo: Jack Converse

SEED Wayne Endowed Scholarship

SEED Wayne has created an endowment of nearly $112,000 to support scholarships for DUSP graduate and undergraduate students who are interested in urban sustainability and justice issues. Funded with revenues set aside from the Wayne State University Farmers Market and honoraria donated from invited lectures made by SEED Wayne’s founding Director and DUSP Chair Kami Pothukuchi, an initial purpose of the endowment was to create a reserve to facilitate a smooth cash flow for market operations which annually require subsidy from grants and other sources of support. However, with the transfer of market operations to other campus partners, these funds have now become available for tuition scholarships, to be managed by DUSP faculty.

Urban Land Institute (ULI) Detroit District Council Endowed Scholarship

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. Professor Robin Boyle helped make this gift possible.

Support DUSP!

DUSP is committed to supporting our students in diverse ways. You can help! Mentor a student informally, hire a DUSP student for an internship or a graduate for a job, or lecture in a class on a topic on which you are expert! And please write a check—for any amount! To learn more, write k.pothukuchi@wayne.edu or rayman.mohamed@wayne.edu.