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URBAN STUDIES & PLANNING

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URSP Events and Activities

URSP Faculty Member, Alumnus, Receive Top APA Planner of the Year Awards

By Jim Cohen (jimcohen@umd.edu)

URSP Professor Gerrit Knaap, and 2004 MCP alumnus Colleen Mitchell, each received top honors from the Maryland Chapter of the American Planning Association for work they performed in 2006. They were given their awards during a ceremony on World Planning Day on Nov. 8, 2006, at the Banneker-Douglass Museum in Annapolis.

Gerrit, Executive Director of the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education, received the "Planner of the Year" award. He was honored for his work as leader of a series of growth visioning exercises around Maryland known as "Reality Check Plus". Reality Check Plus was a large public participation exercise held in four regions of the state that gained the Center and the Urban Studies and Planning program considerable exposure around the state. The four exercises conducted in 2006 were in southern, central and western Maryland, and on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay. In these day-long regional visioning exercises, participants included elected officials, advocates for environmental protection and housing, civic organizations, the business community, and the building and real estate industry. Working in mixed groups of ten persons per table, the stakeholders discussed principles of how the region's projected household and job growth should be spatially distributed, and then visually displayed their desired growth patterns using regional maps and Legos® pieces. The results of these exercises have become part of an important regional and statewide dialogue on future actions needed to promote smart growth. Gerrit gives most of the credit for the event to the students, who he said did all the work. A seven-minute video on the first Reality

Check exercise can be viewed at <http://www.realitycheckmaryland.org/history.php>. Gerrit also teaches a seminar on sustainable Maryland with Matt Bell, professor of Architecture, and research methods.

Colleen, who graduated with a Master of Community Planning in 2004, won the Maryland APA award for "New Planner of the Year". The APA chapter selected Colleen for this award on the basis of her work at the Toole Design Group, a College Park-based firm that specializes in transportation-related consulting services. The nomination letter for Colleen's award stated that she has "taken on large, multi-faceted projects and independently managed them with a level of skill and attention to client service." Although Colleen has only been with the Toole Design Group for two years, the firm is so confident in her project management abilities that they recently appointed her as the Project Manager for the upcoming District of Columbia Pedestrian Master Plan, a one-year project that will create a strategic plan for providing pedestrian-oriented policies and projects in the District.



Colleen Mitchell, APA "New Planner of the Year"



Gerrit Knaap, APA "Planner of the Year"

Master's Program in Real Estate Development Celebrates its First Year

"A comprehensive, collaborative approach to real estate development education focused on building sustainable communities for the future," is at the heart of the new M.A. in Real Estate Development now being offered as part of the graduate programs available through the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation. The new Director, Margaret McFarland, a former planner who holds a degree in Urban Studies, points out that there are many good real estate *finance* programs available to students around the country, but only a handful of real estate *development* graduate programs. The focus of a development degree is broader than a finance based degree by tackling the broader educational task of engaging the full range of real estate development: from property acquisition, to planning and permitting, law and finance, design and construction, culminating in marketing, property and asset management. Maryland's new program will address all these aspects of real estate taking full advantage of the School's other programs, and most particularly sharing certain courses with students in the Urban Studies and Planning program.

The new program is off to a fast start. It has 26 students enrolled as of this Spring, and another 40

applicants to join in the Fall term. The program hopes that by Spring 2008 students in Urban Planning, Architecture and Historic Preservation will be able to get a certificate in Development while they pursue their degrees.

Part of the overall programmatic vision for MRED is to feature scholarships for full time students, expanded and combined library resources for students in all of the School's programs to support collaborative learning, and an endowment for faculty chairs as well as a developer-in-residence program to help cultivate the next generation of real estate developers. McFarland says, "We aim to educate a whole cadre of students who are rooted in an academic and systematic way of thinking as well as the practicalities of developing livable and sustainable communities from Silver Spring to the coast of Spain, from St. Mary's City to St. Petersburg, Russia; from Baltimore City to Beijing, China."

As McFarland reminds us, "Real estate is all about location, and the University of Maryland at College Park couldn't be a better location for this comprehensive approach to real estate development education: Maryland truly has it all!"



URSP Faculty Updates, 2007

Howie Baum, Professor (hbaum@umd.edu)

...see "Faculty Profile" below.

Sidney Brower, Professor (sbrower@umd.edu)

...worked with URSP student, Rachel Fitzgerald to record 63 small independent stores on residential streets in the Canton neighborhood of Baltimore, and conducted interviews with a number of residents and storekeepers. This has led Professor Brower to study the origins of these corner stores, and changes that have taken place in the way that people live and shop since the days when they were first built. With help from URSP student, Shannon Grevious, Professor Brower has looked at steps that have been taken in other U.S. cities to permit mixed-use and to encourage small independent merchants and protect them from competing big-box stores and chains. He is now in the process of writing this up, and addressing questions about the role of corner stores today: do residents want to live next to them, and are they economically viable? Answers to these questions in Canton may suggest answers to the larger question of whether to include mixed uses and small stores in neighborhood plans. He has also been assembling illustrations and obtaining permission to use them in a book, *Designing for Communities* that will come out next year (Shannon has been very helpful with this as well). He will be leading a URSP studio project in Cape Town, South Africa this summer.

Alex Chen, Associate Professor (achen@umd.edu)

... has returned to teaching responsibilities. In Fall, 2006 his housing policy course returned to the schedule, and in the Spring, 2007 he introduced a new undergraduate course which relies on gaming, from simulations to role playing to card games, to teach the principles of urban planning. The students in his Fall, 2007 studio were able to present the results of their findings at the recent National APA Conference. In addition, he continues to work with the local high school, and this year worked with local high school students to complete a community audit of Wheaton, MD including an inventory of community assets, and a video summary of in-person interviews with local businesses and residents (see article page 6). In addition, he is engaged in a residential satisfaction survey of a small community complex of 85 townhomes in Prince Georges County. Built in 1995 as a part of an affordable, first-time homebuyer program, the complex is noteworthy in that the overwhelming majority of original residents continue to live in their homes. The study will try to assess the impact of homeownership on families.

Kelly Clifton, Associate Professor (kclifton@umd.edu)

...is continuing her pedestrian-oriented research with several projects focused on physical activity, safety and forecasting demand. She has been involved in two multi-year studies funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation examining physical activity and its relationship to the built environment. Dr. Clifton has completed a study on the physical design attributes auto accidents involving child pedestrians near schools. She published an article on the study that will appear in the *Journal of Accident Analysis and Prevention*. She has been funded by the Maryland State Highway Safety Office to continue her work on the development a model that can be used to predict pedestrian activity at the neighborhood level.

Jim Cohen, Lecturer (jimcohen@umd.edu)

...in addition to settling into his new job as program director, Dr. Cohen completed a contract with the National Association of Realtors® (NAR) to develop a half- and full-day course on smart growth to be used by the NAR. He is currently working on two research projects, one of which is examining fiscal limitations of Smart Growth implementation in Maryland. In the other project, he and Professor Marie Howland are studying trends in industrially-zone land use in Prince George's County and the policy implications of those trends.

Chengri Ding, Associate Professor (cding@umd.edu)

...continues to work on land and urban development in China, primarily focusing on three themes: land policy, urban planning, and property taxation. Currently he is leading a demo project of integrated planning whose scope overarches different authorities. His projects and papers have been widely circulated among high-level officials as well as scholars. He is also serving as board director for International Property Tax Institute. He was interviewed by *Economist Magazine* and was featured in recent article on China land policy and reform. Dr. Ding manages the third International Workshop on Land and Housing Policy in China with the Development Research Center of the State Council to be held in June 2007. He is currently serves on academic committees at the University of Maryland and is organizing a land panel for the Chinese Economist Society (CES) in Changsha, China for July 2007.

Bill Hanna, Professor (bhanna@umd.edu)

... For the second year, Professor Hanna is editing *The Faculty Voice*, a quarterly publication sent to all faculty members in the Maryland system and others. His articles have ranged from the Opera Studio at College Park to the 200th Anniversary of the School of Medicine. His invited lectures include "Latino Health" at NIH and "Immigration and Immigrants" for the School of Journalism. Professor Hanna edits the biweekly *Barrio de Langley Park* (writing about the immigrant experience) and administers the nonprofit Action Langley Park, which links area immigrants with the campus. He continues to teach graduate seminars on urban areas in developing countries and neighborhoods in the U.S. His draft manuscript, "Gringo in Latinoland", which focuses on the restraints and opportunities of working class immigrants, is nearing completion. Professor Hanna is also active in pushing for better opportunities for immigrants marginalized by the public and private sectors.

Marie Howland, Professor (mhowland@umd.edu)

...continues as Director of the School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation's Ph.D. Program. The School currently has 20 Ph.D. students. This year, she also lectured in Haikou, China in Professor Chengri Ding's China program; presented a paper on her immigration research at the 2006 ACSP meetings in Fort Worth; wrote a paper on the relationship between brownfields and economic development and presented it to the Environmental Protection Agency; and lectured to visiting planners from Croatia on planning and development in Bethesda, Maryland.

Gerrit Knaap, Professor (gknaap@umd.edu)

...see page 1.

Qing Shen, Professor (qshen@umd.edu)

... has an article appearing in *Environment and Planning A* (June 2007, with doctoral student Feng Zhang as co-author). This research examines the effect of smart growth initiatives on the spatial pattern of urban development in Maryland. He has also co-authored two journal articles on urban planning issues in China with researchers at Nanjing University, where he holds a visiting chair professorship. In Fall 2006, he was appointed as an editorial board member of two major journals in urban planning: *Journal of Planning Education and Research* and *Urban Planning International*. While on sabbatical leave this Spring semester, he gave lectures at several universities, including UCLA and University of Tokyo. He co-organized (with Professor Glenn Lyons from Great Britain) and presided over a panel session "Major Disruptions to Personal Travel: Behavioral Response and the Role of Telecommunications" at the 86th annual meeting of Transportation Research Board. He is a Co-PI (with Jonathan Levine at the University of Michigan as PI) of a newly awarded EPA STAR project "Metropolitan Accessibility and Transportation Sustainability: Comparative Indicators for Policy Reform". He will serve as an Associate Dean of the School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation beginning in Summer 2007.



Faculty Highlight: Howie Baum

By Jim Cohen (jimcohen@umd.edu)

Howie Baum has been with the graduate program in planning since 1974, making him the longest serving member of the current URSP faculty. In the early 1970s the Planning Program was located in Baltimore in the School of Social Work, prior to its movement to College Park in

1989 and its merger with the Urban Studies Program in 1992. Dr. Baum still lives in Baltimore, where he and wife Madelyn have raised their two children and where he is completing his current research project, a history of Baltimore school desegregation that will be published as *Liberalism, Ignorance of Race, and the American Dilemma*.

Dr. Baum notes in his upcoming book that in 1954, when the Supreme Court declared school desegregation unconstitutional, 60% of Baltimore students were white, and black and white children attended separate schools. The school board voted to desegregate but adopted a policy giving each student free choice of schools. Almost no whites chose to attend school with black students. The city's schools today are 88% black and black students in Baltimore have less chance of encountering white students than do black students in any other large American school district. Dr. Baum's book analyzes the city's school desegregation efforts from 1937 to 1987 as an illustration of American difficulties dealing with race in

public policy. The book looks at how classical liberalism hinders understanding and addressing racial issues. Dr. Baum was supported in this research project by a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship.

This past year Dr. Baum presented papers on his research to the Urban Affairs Association ("How the American Dilemma Limited School Desegregation in a Border City: Liberalism and Race in Baltimore"), the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning ("School Desegregation as a Window on Racial Dynamics in a City's Development"), and the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology ("Liberalism and Ignorance of Race: Not Just an American Dilemma"). He has become a member of the Historians Council of the Baltimore City Historical Society.

This is an especially relevant topic for the courses that Dr. Baum teaches: an undergraduate course, "Diversity and the City," and three graduate courses, including "New Issues in Community," "Social Planning," and "Advanced Planning Theory." But Dr. Baum is not content just to write history. He is beginning research on models for racial and ethnic reconciliation, restitution, and reparation that could be applicable for improving race relations in the United States.



Adjunct Faculty Highlight: Terry Moore

By Crystal Myers (cm Myers07@umd.edu)

A year ago, when Professor Reid Ewing took a year's sabbatical, Gerrit Knaap, Executive Director for the National Center for Smart Growth Research, searched for someone that could fill gap that he left behind. He naturally turned to his old friend Terry Moore, an engineer and planner, in Oregon. Gerrit and Terry have a history of working together that can be traced back over twenty years ago when they were both University of Oregon students. The two worked as research assistants under the same professor and later worked together at ECONorthwest, an economics and public policy consulting firm.

Since then, Terry has continued to work as a consultant at ECONorthwest specializing in land use and transportation planning. Terry has an impressive academic background. He holds a bachelor's degree in engineering, masters in public administration and a master's degree in urban planning with a concentration in economics.

During his tenure at the University of Maryland, Terry has taken on teaching and research duties related to land use and transportation planning. He has been working on the Maryland Scenarios Project. The project uses the information gathered in Reality Check Plus, a public participation exercise held in four regions of the state (see article below). He is investigating what forces will create regional growth and how these forces can be utilized to give allow people to achieve their preferences in the process. Terry also taught a Land Use and Transportation course this Spring.

As an Oregon native, the question that had to be asked is how Terry feels Maryland compares to Oregon in terms of growth management. He responded that Oregon has a strong set of state statutes with specified state objectives. Maryland, on the other hand, is more incentive-based with less state land use regulations.

The Program and the Center wish Terry all the best as he returns to Oregon to continue his great work.



Dr. Timothy Beatley, Lefrak lecturer, holding locally grown food. Photo by: Dan Addison

2007 Samuel J. Lefrak Lecturer: Dr. Timothy Beatley, Professor and Leader in "Green Urbanism"

By Mandy Ma (msma@umd.edu)

This past March, the URSP Program was privileged to have Dr. Timothy Beatley of the University of Virginia speak at its 2007 Samuel J. Lefrak Lecture. As the Teresa Heinz Professor of Sustainable Communities in the Department of Urban and Environmental Planning, and with over twenty-five years of experience, Professor Beatley is well- renowned and respected in the field. His primary teaching and research interests are in environmental planning and policy, with a special emphasis on coastal and natural hazards planning, environmental values and ethics, and biodiversity conservation. More recently, much of his research and writing has been focused on green urbanism, which is a planning approach that aims to reduce the ecological footprint of cities and towns, while at the same time encouraging them to become more livable and equitable places.

The campus community and the public had two opportunities to meet and hear Dr. Beatley discuss his work. The first was a seminar based on his 2005 publication, *Native to Nowhere: Sustaining Home and Community in a Global Age*. Drawing on examples such as 'Starbucks density,' miles traveled by food from field to table, and the inability of children to recognize basic plant and animal species, Dr. Beatley illustrated lost connections between society, health and nature and argued for the need to develop unique places and an 'ecological owner's manual' to bridge the missing links. During his evening lecture on "Green Urbanism: The Move towards Sustainable Cities in Europe and North America", Dr. Beatley presented various projects working towards sustainable communities across the U.S., Europe and Australia. He discussed how cities can and should become more central in our global agenda of sustainability.

Dr. Beatley was recently awarded a grant from the University of Virginia's NIH Fogarty International Center Framework Program in Global Health to jointly develop a "Healthy Communities, Healthy Food Systems: Global-Local Connections" course. He was also a featured guest on the April 25th edition of National Public Radio's "On Point with Tom Ashbrook" to discuss New York City's plan to make substantial environmental improvements over the next 25 years.

National Center for Smart Growth Research Activities

By John Frece (jfrece@umd.edu)

The National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education (NCSG) has been particularly active on Maryland-related projects during the past year.

In May and June 2006, the NCSG completed four regional growth visioning exercises (known as Reality Check Plus) that involved more than 850 Marylanders from every major jurisdiction in the state. Faculty and graduate assistants analyzed the results of these exercises and released a summary report at a well-publicized event in Baltimore in September 2006. (See www.realitycheckmaryland.org)

As a direct outgrowth of that effort, the Center has joined in a new cooperative venture called the Partnership for Land Use Success, or "PLUS." This group includes 1000 Friends of Maryland, the Home Builders Association of Maryland, the Citizens Planning and Housing Association, the Greater Baltimore Urban League, and the Maryland Municipal League. The group's goal is to find areas of consensus on land use issues that in the past have been divisive. One of the group's first efforts was to take a joint position on legislation then pending in the Maryland General Assembly that would have established a "Green Fund" to finance Chesapeake Bay cleanup efforts.

The NCSG is now embarking on an 18-month project to create a series of development scenarios for the state of Maryland. To do this, the Center has created a 25-member



John Frece conducting a development scenario workshop for the state of Maryland. Photo by: Jung Ho Shin

advisory group. Once a series of development scenarios are identified, Center researchers will analyze and compare them. The results should help inform the development of state land use policy. (See <http://www.smartgrowth.umd.edu/marylandscenarioproject/index.htm>)

The Center also plans to complete work in 2007 on the first iteration of a Maryland Smart Growth Indicators project. Once this baseline is established, changes in various indicators can be observed over time.

In Fall 2007, the Center and the non-profit Resources for the Future will co-sponsor a conference commemorating the 10th anniversary of the passage of the Maryland Smart Growth initiative. The October 3rd-5th conference, "Smart Growth @ 10," will be held in Annapolis and College Park and will feature the presentation of 26 commissioned papers. Former Governor Parris Glendening has agreed to speak at the conference and Governor Martin O'Malley has been invited.



Participants of NCSG's first development scenario workshop. Photo by: Jung Ho Shin

Last year, the Center was also fortunate to join forces with the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) led by Dan Nees and Joanne Throwe. The addition of these and other talented EFC staff, the Center has gained considerable strength in environmental policy and finance issues.



The Planning Studio

Every semester, graduate students in the Urban Studies and Planning Program undertake a six-credit Community Planning Studio. In studios, students bring their diverse skills and knowledge to address planning issues affecting a given community. Copies of all studio reports can be found at: <http://www.arch.umd.edu/URSP/Research/studiorpts/>.



Summer, 2006: St. Petersburg, Russia “Development in the Industrial Belt: Urban Planning in St. Petersburg, Russia” Instructor: Marie Howland (mhowland@umd.edu) and David Faulk (dfalk@umd.edu)

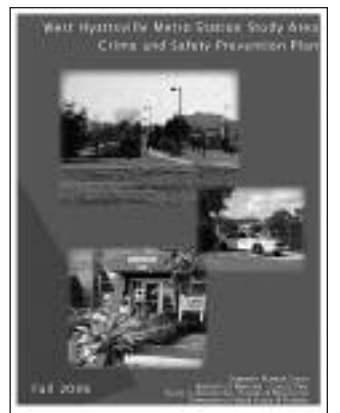
During the White Nights and G8 Summit, seven University of Maryland students conducted their studio in the historic city of St. Petersburg, Russia. The students created a plan using a public-private partnership to redevelop an industrial parcel located just outside the center city limits. As guests of the St. Petersburg State University of Architecture and Civil Engineering, the URSP students collaborated with four Russian architecture students and their professor, Vladimir Linov. The students' final recommendations included an urban design for the site that incorporated both the existing historical structures and complemented the surrounding context, which included a residential neighborhood, religious institution, and commercial businesses. To implement their plan, students advocated the City partner with a private developer to overcome the environmental issues, site constraints, and financial limitations. Copies of the report were sent to both the city government of St. Petersburg and the World Bank. Dr. Howland anticipates returning to Russia in 2009; anyone interested in participating in the studio should contact her at mhowland@ursp.umd.edu.



M.A. students Sarah Franklin (left), Ted Stevens (middle) and Rachel Fitzgerald (right) explaining the Fall Studio 2007 to participant at this year's APA Conference.

Fall 2006: West Hyattsville, MD “West Hyattsville Metro Study Area Crime Prevention and Safety Plan Instructor: Alex Chen (achen@umd.edu)

Six students in the Fall 2006 studio worked in the West Hyattsville Metro area. The West Hyattsville Metro area is surrounded by vacant land uses, parklands, and the Kirkwood Apartments complex. Kirkwood Apartments is located in a low-income area (relative to the region) and has a high turnover rate among residents. Together, the transient nature of the residents, the Metro station, and the surrounding land uses provided unique challenges in planning for crime prevention and safety concerns. The students' report addressed strategies for improving the safety of the area and engaging residents and relevant stakeholders in community crime prevention, while keeping in mind the ways in which the physical and social environments surrounding transit stops affect crime. In addition to their final report, students also produced the *West Hyattsville Tenant Guide to Safety*, a practical action and resource guide to help residents fight crime and promote a safe community. The students presented their findings at the Student Poster Session at this year's 2007 American Planning Association Conference in Philadelphia, PA.



Spring 2007: Jonestown, Baltimore “ Building Community: Jonestown, Albemarle Square and the Legacy of Flaghouse Courts” Instructor: Sidney Brower (sbrower@umd.edu)

This Spring, four students worked on their studio project in Jonestown, the oldest neighborhood in Baltimore City. Traditionally, Jonestown was used as a stepping stone for immigrants upon their arrival to America. As they prospered, they quickly moved out of Jonestown. Several different ethnicities and nationalities have lived in Jonestown, closely related to the wave of immigration at the time. In 1955 Jonestown became home to Flaghouse Courts, a high rise public housing project. This project lasted until 2001 when it was demolished. It was replaced with Albemarle Square, a mixed-income HOPE VI development where public housing residents live side-by-side with market rate housing residents in an attempt to deconcentrate areas of poverty. The studio analyzed the situation in Albemarle Square and addressed the following questions: What is community? Does it exist in Albemarle Square? If it does exist, is it inclusive of all income classes? What can be done to improve community cohesiveness? Has HOPE VI been successful in achieving its goals?

URSP Co-Sponsors Wildly Successful Reception at 2007 APA Conference

By Jim Cohen (jimcohen@umd.edu)

Happy reunions, stimulating conversations and tasty treats were all part of an enormously successful reception held on April 16, 2007 at the annual American Planning Association (APA) conference. URSP organized and co-hosted the Washington / Maryland reception, which was co-sponsored by the Maryland-National Capital Planning Commission, the Maryland Department of Planning, the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education, the Maryland and National Capital chapters of APA, and Morgan State University's Graduate Program in City and Regional Planning.



URSP Alums (from left to right) Nicole Lacoste and Heather Whitlow at APA reception in Philadelphia, PA.



URSP Alums (from left to right) Amy Lamontaigne, Julie Herlands, and Elisabeth Holler reconnect at APA reception.

URSP 2007 Student Awards

The Urban Studies and Planning Program is proud to announce this year's award winners.

**Outstanding Master of Community
Planning Student Award**
Rachel Jane Fitzgerald

AICP Award for Highest GPA
Willow Lung Amam and Rachel Jane Fitzgerald

Teresa Fiscus Moriarity Award for Best Environmental Final Paper
Rachel Jane Fitzgerald and Sarah McGraw Greenberg

Robert Janes Award
Willow Lung Amam

Larry Reich Award for Best Final Paper
Willow Lung Amam

**National Center for Smart Growth Outstanding
Graduate Research Assistant**
Arnab Chakraborty

URSP Teaching Award
Rachel Jane Fitzgerald

Ph.D. Program News

By Marie Howland (mhowland@umd.edu)

Three outstanding new students have committed to the Fall 2007 class. **Lynette Boswell** comes with a B.A. and MCP from Ball State University and M.A. in Urban Design from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She studied urban design and international planning in India. Her professional experience includes planning and landscape architectural work for the Lannert Group in Chicago and work as a Resident Research Fellow for the Genesee Institute in Flint, Michigan, where she researched the decline in older city neighborhoods and revitalization. Currently, Lynette is employed in the Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce. Lynette received a URPD fellowship and a Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity (CrISP) assistantship. Angel Nieves will serve as her advisor. Also entering in the fall is **Joe Constanzo**. Joe is currently working at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services as a Policy Analyst, and has worked at the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. State Department, and U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform. His B.A. is in Political Science from Pennsylvania State University and he has an M.A. degree in Applied Demography from Georgetown University. Joe received a URPD assistantship and **Sidney Brower** will serve as his advisor.

The 2007 class will also include **Scott Dempwolf**, who comes with a B.A. from MIT and a MA in Urban Studies from Temple University. For the past several years, he has run his own planning consulting firm in Pennsylvania. Scott will work with professors Jim Cohen and Marie Howland on their study of industrial land use in Prince George's County. Marie Howland will serve as his advisor.

The accomplishments and awards of our returning students continue to be varied and impressive. **Yunie Kim** was selected as one of 25 individuals for the World Bank's Young Professional program out of an original application pool of 13,000 candidates. **Carolina Burnier** received a three-year Eisenhower Fellowship. She presented the paper, "Health and Safety Implications of Women's Travel Behavior" at the 2006 ACSP conference, with Dr. Kelly Clifton and **Andi Livi-Smith**. She also presented a paper,

"The Built Environment and Local Trips: A Joint Model of Destination and Mode Choice" at the 2007 Transportation Research Board conference.

In the past year, **Arnab Chakaborty** has presented at two conferences - ACSP in Fort Worth and the American Planning Association in Philadelphia. He also taught two week-long courses on land use and spatial analysis, one in China and the other in the Netherlands; published a paper on comprehensive planning in rural areas in the *Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy* (March'07 issue); coordinated four Reality Check visioning exercises around the state; and co-taught URSP 606 "Urban Economics and Public Policy". He plans to complete his dissertation in the summer of 2007 and join the faculty in the Urban Planning Department at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana in the Fall.



Ph.D. student, Rodney Harrell

Rodney Harrell is a recipient of a campus Wylie Fellowship. This award will provide full tuition and stipend support for the 2007-2008 academic year. Additionally, he published a chapter "Healthy Urban Design: Maryland's Smart Codes and the Pedestrian Environment" in a book edited by Gerrit Knaap and an article in the *Harvard Journal of Legislation*, with Kenya Covington (a URSP grad), entitled "From Renting to Homeownership: Using Tax incentives to Encourage Homeownership among Renters."

Selma Lewis participated in the Trans-Atlantic Research Agenda workshop in Sabionetta, Italy and assisted in a presentation on urban development in Bethesda, Maryland to visitors from Croatia at the Urban Institute. **Chao Liu** continues her work with Professor Qing Shen comparing land use pre and post- smart growth and a study of transportation accessibility measures. **Doan Nguyen** presented at the 47th Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) in Fort Worth, TX and co-taught

URSP 606 with **Arnab Chakaborty** last Fall. His dissertation *The Impact of Urban Form and Social Capital on Regional Innovation* is near completion and he expected to defend in June 2007.

Jung Ho Shin is a third year Ph.D. student, working with **Gerrit Knaap** creating different development scenarios for the State of Maryland and examining the impact of land use regulations on multi-family housing supply. He also serves as the Center for Smart Growth's GIS lab administrator. **Jung Ho** presented a paper titled "Is Zoning a Barrier to Affordable Housing," at the 2006 ACSP Annual Conference, and also has become a certified planner by passing American Institute of Certified Planners examination.

Andrea Livi-Smith was the recipient of fellowship to support her dissertation on non-motorized travel and to attend the Active Living Research conference in San Diego in February 2007. The dissertation fellowship is from Active Living Research, which is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She was one of only four Ph.D. students in the country to receive this Fellowship. **Maria Teresa Souza** took a leave of absence in the spring of 2007 and is the proud mom of a new son, Neil. In the Fall of 2007, she will continue on her dissertation on informality, land use regulation on housing prices in Brazil.

Feng Zhang was also a recipient of an Eisenhower Fellowship and a grant from the University of Maryland's Department of Transportation to support his dissertation on real-time information on public transit. **Xingshou Zhao** continues her work for Professor Chengri Ding on property tax reform in China, China's economic development zones, and provincial development.

Last, but certainly not least, **Vikas Mehta** officially completed his dissertation in entitled, *Lively Streets: Exploring the Relationship between the Built Environment and Social Behavior* the Summer of 2006 and took a job as Assistant Professor, School of Architecture and Community Design, University of South Florida, in Tampa, Florida.

The Wheaton Redevelopment Project: A High School - University Partnership

By Alex Chen (achen@umd.edu)

For the past three years, Urban Studies and Planning program (URSP) graduate students and myself have met with students at nearby Northwood High School (NHS) to present the principles and practices of the urban planning profession. Through lectures, discussion, field projects, and with the support of the local community, high school students have been introduced to idea of community study, and have learned about the planning profession, practice, and process. During Fall, 2006 the URSP program and NHS students embarked on the most ambitious community study to date. Over two semesters, a group of 10th and 11th graders focused their attention on nearby Wheaton, MD to learn about urban revitalization. During this period, high school students assessed community conditions, developed recommendations for action, and built support for their proposals, by sharing their results with the community.

As part of this effort, Northwood High School students worked extensively with the Urban Studies and Planning Program. First year graduate planning student, Ms. Tiffany Williams was a key player, acting as a lecturer, facilitator for small group discussions, and coordinator for the various field activities including a windshield survey, community audit and in person interviews. She presented the results of these efforts at the Student Poster Session at the recent 2007 National Conference of the American Planning Association. In addition, several URSP graduate planning students joined the Northwood students in their windshield survey of downtown Wheaton. Working as teams, with maps and survey instruments in hand, high school and planning students walked through downtown Wheaton, taking notes, and sharing their observations and views about the physical and social environment.

Through these efforts, NHS students learned to conduct first-hand research, and developed familiarity in data gathering. They gained experience in the use of personal data assistants (PDAs) and Geo Positioning Satellite (GPS) units as data collection tools. With these skills they prepared a "SWOT" analysis which detailed the community's strengths and weaknesses as well as identified opportunities for and threats to community improvement. They complemented this work with a videotape that summarized the year's activities and provided visual support for their SWOT analysis. These materials provided the basis for an oral presentation of their conclusions and recommendations to the local Wheaton Redevelopment Authority, community residents, and business owners in May, 2007.

At the end of the first semester, students completed a brief survey which asked them to evaluate the different activities, to share their visions of an ideal community, and finally to discuss what the experience has taught them about the planning profession. Their responses provide an indication of the potential rewards that partnerships such as ours can reap in terms of student learning.

As one might expect all the field activities were highly rated by the NHS students. However, their responses also highlighted the benefits that could be associated with community based learning activities, including that of hands on learning. The project also opened the eyes of students to the role of diversity in neighbor

hood health and vitality. In our end of semester survey, diversity was prominently mentioned. As one student commented, "My ideal community would have a wide range of stores and restaurants representing different cultures making the area very diverse." Finally, we asked the students as to their understanding about the planning profession. What do planners do? As one might expect, students focused on the relationship between planning and the improvement of the quality of life. However, it was a pleasant surprise that a number of responses focused on the planning process and the reliance on public input.

The success of this project was greatly assisted by URSP graduate assistant, Tiffany Williams, who was the cornerstone of this project. In addition, Northwood High School teacher, Ms. Jill Coutts, who volunteered her class to participate in this community study, deserves special praise.

Ernest Boyer, former President of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, challenged universities and colleges to "become a more vigorous partner in the search for answers to our most pressing social, civic, economic and moral problems," concluding that the University "must reaffirm its historic commitment to what I call the scholarship of engagement." (Boyer Ernest L. The Scholarship of Engagement. *Journal of Public Service & Outreach*, Volume 1, Number 1, pp. 11-20, 1996).

It is in this spirit that the Urban Studies and Planning program has made a commitment to work with local high school students to enable them to become part of the discourse regarding community concerns and issues. This participation is considered critical to the addressing the needs of the community. The Northwood High School - Urban Studies and Planning program partnership provides a mechanism whereby both the local high school and university can become engaged in responding to community concerns and issues.



Students from Northwood High School and Urban Studies and Planning Program begin windshield survey



Northwood High School students use Palm Pilots during community audit



M.A. student, Tiffany Williams (left), discusses project at 2007 National APA Conference to M.A. student Robert Goodspeed (right)



Student Spotlight: Willow Lung Amam, MCP, on the Sustainability of Diverse Communities

By Elana Messner (emessner@umd.edu)

While the Planning Program at Maryland generally produces more practitioners than academics, occasionally a student opts to pursue the academic route. This year, Willow Lung Amam chose this path. She plans to begin the Ph.D. program in Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning at the University of California at Berkeley this fall, where she was awarded a five-year Eugene Cota Robles Fellowship. Last week, I caught up with Ms. Lung Amam to talk about her accomplishments and future plans.

Ed: Given your undergraduate degree in Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity [from Stanford University], how did you make the leap into community and urban planning?

WLA: During my senior year in college, I volunteered at an organization working with the East Palo Alto [California] that was doing neighborhood planning. The community had many divisions, including ethnic ones. It was then that I began to make the connection between the diversity and the planning process, which has a direct effect on communities.

Ed: How did you pursue that interest after you graduated?

WLA: I moved to Washington, DC, to work in a civil rights law firm specializing in housing issues and later for a consulting company doing Section 8 and HOPE VI housing work. Later, I moved into real estate. I wanted to impact communities through housing, especially dealing with the issues of diversity and social justice in housing.

Ed: How did your tenure here at UMD strengthen your focus?

WLA: I decided that UMD's program offered me a chance to expand my horizons. I've specialized in Urban Design as a way, not only to look at the issue of housing, but of the entire urban fabric and how planning and design be used to address issues of diversity and social justice. I feel quite strongly that the planning and design fields would be enhanced if more cultural sensitivity were paid to the creation of such diverse public spaces, so that they could be fully enjoyed and utilized by both our present diverse communities *and* the communities of tomorrow. Only by creating and nurturing physical places that reflect a commitment to diversity and inclusion can we hope to ensure their sustainability for the next generation—diversity begets flexibility, which is needed in our changing world.

Ed: So, what's next?

WLA: The PhD program is supposed to take five years. After which time, I intend to pursue a tenure-track professorship—hopefully at the University of Maryland! My family is here, and this is home.

Ms. Lung Amam was honored this year to receive third place in the Promise Research Symposium for her research on "A Multicultural Design Ethic for the Global Era: A Community-Building Approach to Addressing Diversity in Urban Design." In April, Willow presented a paper, co-authored by Dr. Shenglin Chang, Landscape Architecture associate professor at the University of Maryland entitled "At Home, Away from Home: Suburban Landscape Encounters and Taiwanese Immigrant Identity Transformation" at the Association Asian-American Studies National Conference in New York, New York. She is a member of the University of Maryland's Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society Honor Society.

Student Planning Association Update

By Crystal Myers (cm Myers07@umd.edu)

The Student Planning Association (SPA) had an exciting 2006-2007 year. SPA Board officers, Crystal Myers, Rachel Fitzgerald, Katherine McQueen, Mandy Ma, and Ted Stevens worked with the URSP Program to address the professional and academic interests of the student body. In response to professional interests, SPA hosted an informational session on the Presidential Management Fellowship program and the Annual Spring Career Panel. In response to academic interests, SPA worked with the URSP faculty on the addition of two new courses offered for the first time this Spring: "Principles of Urban Design" and the "Land Use Planning for Watershed Protection". It also worked with the department to create a GIS workshop and arrange a student tour of Greenbelt. SPA did not forget to make a little time for fun. In September, it hosted the second annual URSP tailgate party and partnered with the Historic Preservation student group, HIPO, to host a Halloween party.

The structure of SPA also underwent big changes. It consolidated all of the URSP student representative positions into the five SPA positions. The new SPA board members are now also the URSP's student representatives to the DC and Maryland APA chapters, Graduate School Government, Faculty meetings, and Dean's Advisory Council. This year's representatives include: Tiffany Williams, Shannon Grevious, Rob Goodspeed, Brooke Taylor, and Emanuel Briggs. This reorganization will give planning students a greater voice in the Program, the School, and in the larger planning community.



Halloween at Caroline Hall (from left to right), M.A students, Crystal Myers, Elana Messner, with Ashay Amam (future planner) and Tiffany Williams.

2007 Graduation Ceremonies

By Willow Lung Amam (lungamam@gmail.com)

This year's graduation ceremonies, held on May 21st, honored 15 students receiving a Master of Community Planning (MCP), with one, Ms. Katherine McQueen also receiving certificates in Historic Preservation. The Program also honored URPD Program also honored Vikas Mehta, who received a Ph.D. degree. MCP Graduate, Willow Lung Amam spoke at the commencement addressing the role that graduates can play in promoting social and environmental sustainability. The keynote speaker, Douglas Duncan, former Montgomery County Executive and recently appointed University of Maryland, College Park's Vice President for Administrative Affairs spoke about the importance of community and the role of architects, planners and historic preservationists in building better, stronger and more vital neighborhoods.

Congratulations and best wishes to the class of 2007!



Students patiently awaiting their degrees at 2007 Commencement ceremony



Awarding of URSP Student Awards (from left to right) Dean Garth Rockcastle, URSP Director, Jim Cohen and students, Rachel Fitzgerald and Willow Lung Amam



Douglas Duncan addressing graduating students on the importance of community

URSP Alumni Updates

Deborah Albert (2005) Environmental Planner with Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning. She has worked primarily on development review, but spent the last eight months working on a Plan Amendment that added guidelines for Transit-Oriented Development to the County's Policy Plan.

Adriane Aul (2003) Program Manager, Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG). Adriane is coordinating a vacant property recycling program. In December 2006, Adriane was named one of Pittsburgh Magazine's "40 Under 40" for individuals under the age of 40 making an impact in the region. Adriane resides in Pittsburgh, PA and recently purchased a row house in the City's historic South Side.

Aimee (LaMontagne) Baumiller (2004) Program Analyst, Market Research, PNC Bank, Real Estate Finance. Aimee's husband, Larry works for the City's Legal Department and together, they're enjoying living in Squirrel Hill in Pittsburgh and fixing up their new older home.

Janine Benjamin (2000) Federal Planner, Michael Baker Jr., Inc. She is working on a variety of projects including Outdoor Recreation Plans for army bases in the Southeast Region and the National Capital Region Evacuation and Sheltering Plan.

Ethan Bindernagel (2005) Associate Planner, Walnut Creek in San Francisco Bay Area. Ethan and Becca are planning their wedding later this year on December 29, 2007 in Burlington, VT, Becca's hometown. Ethan would love to hear from classmates, and can be reached at ethan_bindernagel@yahoo.com.

Ilna Branda (2006) Program Associate, Cultural Development Corporation. Ilna is working on creating a concept paper for a cultural arts center in Ward 7 in the District, working with Manna Inc. to develop work/live housing for artists, and developing plans to renovate the Source Theater property in NW DC.

Chalita Brandly (2005) Planner, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Prince George's County Planning. She is in their Research Section currently working on a housing study for the County and working with M-NCPPC's economic fiscal impact model.

Catherine Brown (2006) Project Analyst, Bozzuto, Inc. She is learning about the development process for Howard County and Montgomery County and also working on an infill site in Towson and a TOD project in Odenton. Every other month a few alumni meet up in Baltimore for happy hour. Email cathyabrown@gmail.com if you would like to be on the invite list.

Kellie (Bethke) Brown (2005) Consultant, BBP Associates, Annapolis. Kellie is working on developing a parking plan for a private mixed use, a TOD project in Prince George's County, crafting an economic development plan for the City of Virginia Beach, and advising and assisting the City of Fredericksburg in redeveloping an underutilized parcel in its downtown area.

Samantha Brown (2003) and **Jonathan Brown** (2003) Samantha is Housing Development Officer, Community Housing Partners. Jonathan is Community Planner, VA DHCD. The Browns are doing well in Richmond, Virginia. They live in the beautiful museum district and love it. Their daughter, Rose will be entering the first grade in the Fall and will be in the gifted program.

Matt Campbell (1995) Branch Chief for the Long Term Community Recovery Branch in FEMA's Disaster Assistance Directorate. He is happy to be working in the planning field again. He has a (very) small staff, but if anyone is interested in an internship he'd be happy to talk to them.

Anne Corbette (1997) Executive Director, Cultural Development Corporation. Her company is working on a number of exciting projects, including preparing a concept paper for an arts center in DCs Ward 7, working with Manna Inc. to develop affordable work/live condominiums in NE D.C., and developing plans to renovate the Source Theater property in NW DC.

Jeff Davis (2003) Ward 6 Neighborhood Planner for the DC Office of Planning. He will be taking the AICP exam in May and hopes he won't be taking it again in November.

Samantha Erickson (2005) Transportation Planner, KFH Group, Inc. Recently, her company began helping Maryland plan how to comply with new federal regulations under SAFETEA-LU.

Suzanne Fontanesi (1999) Oncology RN, Johns Hopkins Hospital. Suzanne went to nursing school after becoming interested in the impact of planning and community development on health. She has lived in Baltimore City for about four years with her husband Jeff and now has a two-year old son Leo. Another baby is due to make an appearance in July.

Margaret (Clune) Giblin (2005) Lecturer, Environmental Science and Policy Program and Director of the College Park Scholars - Environmental Studies, University of Maryland, beginning in Fall 2007. Margaret also volunteers as a Primate Interpreter at the National Zoo and as the Secretary for the non-profit Orangutan Conservancy.

Mike Goodno (2005) Bicycle program specialist, DC Department of Transportation. Mike's main focus is to promote cycling as a viable mode of transportation by implementing the objectives of the City's 2005 Bicycle Master Plan.

Lilah Haxton (1995) Local Mitigation Planner, Maryland Emergency Management Agency. Lilah volunteers as a board member of the York City, PA Historical Architectural Review Board and the Maryland Association of Stormwater and Floodplain Managers.

Julie Herlands (2000) Consultant, TischlerBise. Julie is working with clients across the country on fiscal impact analysis and impact fees. She recently spoke at National APA conference, April 2007 on voluntary mitigation payments. She has been enjoying every minute with her son Everett, who's now a toddler.

Lori Gutman (2001) Planner, Louis Berger Group, Inc. Lori recently moved to Denver to help open a new office to further work with the National Park Service. She continues to do environmental planning and compliance work. Lori also got engaged this year and by September 2007 will be Lori Fox.

Becky Himlin (1996) Executive Director, Planact in Johannesburg, South Africa. Planact is a facilitator for participatory development processes that target the poorest of the poor. Becky's kids are 9, 6 and 2, and all doing great. She plans to move back to the U.S. in 2008 and hopes to connect with colleagues.

Elizabeth Holler (2003) Planner, City of Orlando. Elizabeth has been living in Orlando for the last three years, working for the City's Comprehensive Planning Studio and watching high rises appear on the horizon. She is thinking about remodeling the kitchen and counting the days until Ikea opens.

David Kanthor (2005) Project Coordinator, Center City District, Philadelphia, PA. David works on making public space accessible, safe, and clean to both visitors and residents of Center City Philadelphia.

Sehyung Kim (1998) Sehyung lives in Los Angeles, CA and works with a commercial real estate brokerage in and around downtown. Sehyung's projects include adaptive reuse buildings and large-scale redevelopment projects of industrial buildings.

Elizabeth Kelley (2003) Program analyst, Logistics Branch of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Headquarters. Elizabeth works on national disaster housing issues. She lives in Old Town, Alexandria and is active in historical organizations.

Katherine Kelly (2002) Transportation Planner, City of Rockville, MD. Katherine passed the AICP certification last November.

Allison Ladd (2000) Associate Executive Director, District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency. Allison still enjoys her home is southwest DC and is excited that she now works where she lives.

Nicole M. Lacoste (2000) Attorney, Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP in Baltimore City, MD. Nichole remains involved in land use and zoning issues in Maryland. She is serving as the Chair of APA's Planning & Law Division and as a Board member of the Neighborhood Design Center.

Jeff LaNoue (1999) Project Manager, Jubilee Baltimore. Jeff is working on several real estate development projects and helps run the "healthy neighborhoods" program for Midtown. He just bought a condo in the Woodberry neighborhood in Baltimore City.

Daniel McCarthy (1991) Executive Director, Episcopal Housing Corporation (EHC). EHC is a faith based housing and community development non-profit in Baltimore. Their justice based mission has focused on the development of special needs housing with an emphasis on those in recovery from the disease of substance abuse.

Francis McLaughlin (2005) Associate Planner, Anchorage, AK. Francis is learning the city code, reviewing subdivision proposals, and working on the city's new downtown comprehensive plan. Francis feels at home in Anchorage, only 400 miles south of her hometown in the North Pole.

Christine Melekian (2000) Director of Business Operations, Colleague Consulting LLC. Christine and her family live in Washington, DC, where they are enjoying the continued rejuvenation of the city thanks to the efforts of the DC Office of Planning and, of course, some of her fellow URSP alumni.

Nadejda Mishkovsky (1999). Nadejda has been living in Miami for a year now. She is working half time for ICMA. Aside from mother stuff, she is active on several local urban planning/health-related organizations' boards and taking landscape painting classes.

Colleen Mitchell (2004) Transportation Planner, Toole Design Group. Colleen is currently a Project Manager for the District of Columbia's Pedestrian Master Plan. She has developed a niche in campus planning and has spoken at several conferences nation-wide on the topic. Last year, she received APA's *New Planner* award for Maryland.

Julie (Mirvis) Morris (2005) Planner, Town of Vienna, VA. Julie will be participating in Bike to Work Day. She and her husband, Adam, recently brought home a Goldendoodle (Golden Retriever/Standard Poodle mix) puppy, Marley.

Linda Oravec (1993) Assistant Professor, Family Studies and Community Development at Towson University.

Ann Piesen (2004) Manager, the Fire Management Assistance Grant Program, and Policy Analyst with the Public Assistance (Infrastructure) Program at Federal Emergency Management Agency Headquarters. Ann lives in Silver Spring, MD with her husband, and two dogs, and is actively involved with several non-profit animal rescue organizations.

Noushin Rashtian (2003) Senior Planner, Urban Design, Development Review Division (DRD), Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission in Prince George's County, MD. Noushin is involved in the design review process and approval of proposed developments within the County.

Carrie Sanders (2005) Transportation Planner, City of Rockville, MD. Carrie manages citywide transportation projects and recently received a federal grant to improve transportation facilities in the vicinity of Rockville's schools.

Jason Sartori (2005) Principal, Integrated Planning Consultants, LLC. IPC provides project management services for a variety of planning-related efforts. Jason is also currently the program director for the Partnership for Land Use Success and serving in a leadership capacity for the Maryland Scenario Project. He and his wife Michele welcomed their second daughter, Kristin, into the world this year.

Tanya (Wilson) Sejour (2000) Planner, City of North Miami, FL. Tanya's duties include comprehensive planning, rezoning, land use plan amendments, development of regional impacts, and transportation planning.

Jessica Solomon (2006) Program Manager, Public Health Infrastructure and Systems Team, National Association of County and City Health Officials. Jessica continues to keep her finger on the pulse of the connection between planning and public health and enjoys living, working, and playing in Washington, DC.

Kate Shiflet (2005) Associate, Basile Baumann Prost & Associates, a public/private real estate and planning advisory firm in Annapolis, MD. Kate just purchased her first house in historic downtown Frederick, MD.

David Traggorth (2005) Project Manager, Salvation Army World Service Office. David currently lives in Sri Lanka and works as a consultant for the overseeing of the island-wide planning and construction effort to rebuild after the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

Magdalena Vicuna (2005) Professor and Planner. Magdalena is teaching an undergraduate course of urbanism at the School of Architecture of the Universidad Católica de Chile and also working on planning projects for local governments through the same institution.

Stephanie vonFeck (1996) Program Manager, Clean Water State Revolving Fund, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Stephanie led a panel discussion at the "Paying for Sustainable Infrastructure Conference," in Atlanta, GA, on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

Jennifer Willman (2000) Entitlement Planner, Ballast Point Group, a Sembler Investments Company, St. Petersburg, FL. Jennifer is working on urban redevelopment mixed-use and apartment projects and also serving as a Professional Development Officer for the Florida APA Sun Coast Section.

Megan Zadecky (2005) Transportation Director, the National Association of Regional Councils. Megan is responsible for technical assistance programs and transportation policy efforts. She lives in DC's Columbia Heights neighborhood with her husband and dog.

In Memorial: Robert J. Paul

The Urban Studies and Planning Program was saddened by the news that one of our alumni, Robert J. Paul, lost his life on September 8, 2006 while on military assignment in northeastern Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. Paul graduated with a Master of Community Planning degree in 1995. A resident of The Dalles, OR, he enlisted in the Army Reserve in April 1997. He was deployed to Iraq in 2003 where he served as a Civil Affairs team sergeant focus on urban planning. Paul returned the Middle East in the spring of 2006 as a staff sergeant with the 364th Civil Affairs Brigade and was later deployed to Afghanistan.

Robert Paul was born on August 8, 1963 in Hammond, IN. He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign prior to his enrollment in our masters program. He worked for Wasco County, Oregon as the senior land use planner. He is survived by his daughter, Ilena, and her mother, Bonnie of Bensalem, PA and his sisters, Monica and Debra, of Chicago and Portland.

URSP Alumni Form

Our alumni are an important asset to the Program, as demonstrated by our recent accreditation review. Please help us keep in contact with you by filling in the attached form and return to Alex Chen at Urban Studies and Planning Program, School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742 or achen@umd.edu. Thank you.

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Year of Graduation: _____

Current or most recent employer: _____

Business Address: _____

Business Phone: _____

Email: _____



URSP Events and Activities



Michael Sarbanes (left) and Joseph T. Landers (right) and debating Baltimore housing policy at this year's annual Carl Ruskin Lecture series. Photo by: Mike Ambrose.

Annual Carl Ruskin Lecture Features Debate on Baltimore Housing Policy

By Jim Cohen (jimcohen@umd.edu)

Opposing viewpoints on a controversial inclusionary housing bill being considered by the City of Baltimore were highlighted at the annual Carl M. Ruskin Lecture on March 29, 2007. At issue was a proposed bill that would require any new housing development that receives a city subsidy, to set aside 20 percent of the new units for low- to moderate-income households. After 18 months, the bill would also require any housing developer who benefits from a re-zoning to have 10 percent of the new units be affordable. Any development

that receives either tax breaks or discounted land from the city would be required to contain a mix of market rate and low-cost housing. A portion of the affordable units must be earmarked for very low-income households. The bill would sunset after five years to allow city leaders to evaluate the program's effectiveness.

Under the proposal, the City would compensate the affected developers for any expenses they incur for the lower cost units, by giving them subsidies, density bonuses and cash payments. The money for this compensation would come from a new inclusionary housing trust fund.

Arguing in favor of the proposed bill was Michael Sarbanes, Executive Director of the Citizens Planning and Housing Association. Sarbanes argued that, if Baltimore becomes successful in new attracting residential development, such housing should not be the exclusive domain of higher income households. He said that, in a redeveloping Baltimore, income segregation would increase substantially without inclusionary zoning.

Arguing against the bill was Joseph T. Landers, the Executive Vice President of the Greater Baltimore Board of Realtors. Landers argued that the proposed program would create a complicated bureaucratic process, would not yield very much affordable housing, and would be costly to the City. He also said the City could use the available funds to benefit many more low- and moderate-income households through homeownership opportunities and rental assistance.

The Carl N. Ruskin Memorial Lectureship Fund was established in memory of a distinguished alumnus of the Community Planning Program. At the time of his tragic death in 1987 he was Chief of Planning and Urban Design in the Department of Housing and Community Development, City of Baltimore. The purpose of the fund is to bring important practitioners and scholars to Baltimore each year to address issues of "The Neighborhood and the City."

Panel Addresses Challenges and Prospects for Planning for Diversity

By Willow Lung Amam (lungamam@gmail.com)

A panel, representing a broad range of planning experiences from public to private, non-profit to government, addressed students about the challenges and opportunities that ethnic diversity poses for current and future generations of planners. All panelists agreed that they have had to retool the way that they do business because of the increasing diversity of the communities that they serve. Panelists also addressed issues of integrating long-term and new residents; gentrification; planning for temporary vs. long-term residents; and building trust with different groups. All agreed that planning for diversity is challenging, but is the imperative of planner operating in today's multicultural communities.

Panelist included: Anne Baum, Project Manager with the Community Planning Division of the Prince George's County Department of Housing and Community Development; Joseph Chang, Planning Supervision of the Community Planning North Division of Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for Prince George's County; Deborah L. Crain, Neighborhood Planner for Ward 5 in DC; and Iraya Ruiz, AICP, Assistant Director of Operations of the School of World Studies and Vice-Chair of the Latinos and Planning Division of APA. The panel was moderated by Dr. Angel David Nieves, Assistant Professor of Historic Preservation and Assistant Professor of Historic Preservation and affiliate of University of Maryland's Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity.

Alumni Career Panel

By Willow Lung Amam (lungamam@gmail.com)

This year's alumni career panel brought together four alumni that spoke to students about their professional career paths. The panelist addressed issues of negotiating your salary; private vs. public sector work; AICP certification; and necessary skills for today's planners. Panelist stressed the need for students to develop real estate and financial skills as well as an urban design vocabulary. The panelists, who were all women, also addressed challenges for young women in the work world and how students can make a successful transition into jobs after graduation.

Panelists included: Aimee McHale (MCP, 2003), Assistant Vice President for Multifamily Housing for the National Housing Trust/Enterprise Preservation Corporation; Colleen Mitchell (MCP, 2004), Transportation Planner with Toole Design Group; Marianne Navarro (MCP, 2003), Economic Development Officer for the Baltimore Development Corporation; and Elsa Vitale (MCP, 2003), Planner for College Park City. The panel was moderated by Willow Lung Amam (MCP, 2007).



Panelists (from left to right) Iraya Ruiz, Joseph Chang, Deborah Crain, and Anne Baum



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