The 2013-14 academic year was a fulfilling one for URSP in a variety of reasons, many of which are highlighted in this newsletter. But in what seems to have become a tradition, for the third year in a row will experience the retirement of one of longtime faculty members. This year it is Howie Baum, who has been a fabulous teacher, a wonderful colleague and a scholar with a national reputation for his research on community and social planning issues. Angela Martinez’s profile of Howie, herein, features observations from Steve Janes, a planning professional who was in one of Howie’s first classes, as well as from current student Tanya Sayyed, who took the very last class that Howie taught here. We will miss Howie greatly.

Among the URSP highlights of the recent academic year was the release of a national study completed for Planetizen on the scholarly productivity of U.S. planning program faculty. The study, conducted by Professor Tom Sanchez of Virginia Tech's Urban Affairs and Planning Program, ranked U.S. planning programs by the number of citations of publications by their faculty, including publications such as books, chapters and journal articles. URSP faculty ranked 9th overall among all U.S. programs in terms of citations per capita, and ranked 5th in terms of scholarly work citations per capita per year.

The 2013 Fall Collaborative Tour featured a visit to Glenn Dale Hospital in Prince George's County. The hospital, a former tuberculosis sanatorium, is now abandoned. The reuse of the site was the subject of a student-organized charrette in January. Nearly 50 students, faculty and invited professionals engaged in a day long interdisciplinary charrette for visioning and discussing future possibilities for the site (see upper left photo on issue cover).

Also visited during the Fall 2013 interdisciplinary tour was National Harbor, a new, 300-acre multi-use development on the Potomac River (see bottom right of issue cover).

Grad student Andrew Casavant was the team leader for a group of five graduate students from UMD's Architecture, Real Estate Development and Landscape Architecture programs that took top honors at the 12th Annual 2014 Urban Land Institute's Gerald D. Hines Student Urban Design Competition.

In this issue you will also read about Marie Howland’s, Scott Dempwolf’s and their graduate student team’s path-breaking research and technical assistance through a multi-year grant from the Economic Development Administration. Alex Chen continued his Code for Community Challenge which he created last year, in which UMD undergraduate students compete to create an computer and/or cell phone application that provides an important community service. Alex also created a new feature on our website entitled Video Wall: Planning for a Diverse Community.” The video project explores how demographic changes in the U.S. are influencing the work of U.S. planners, as racial and ethnic diversity increases in the U.S. The videos profile the observations and work of eight planning professionals, five of whom are URSP alumni.
This issue also profiles recent achievements of the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education, including the creation of the Program for Action Learning for Sustainability (PALS) and the organizing of a hugely successful March conference entitled “Beyond the Tracts: Development in the Purple Line Corridor.

Beginning in Fall 2014, the PALS program will involve several UMD faculty utilizing one of their classes to address sustainability-related challenges facing a local government in Maryland. Students in those classes will utilize concepts and skills learned in the course to provide the requested assistance. The “Beyond the Tracts” conference drew the participation of over 250 representatives from business, government, non-profit organizations and philanthropy to discuss strategies to address economic and social justice issues related to a new light rail line being built in Maryland that will run from Bethesda in Montgomery County to New Carrollton in Prince George’s. The conference was part of an ongoing Center initiative.

Please keep in touch with us, and provide us with any changes to your mailing or e-mail addresses.

Jim Cohen

You’ve probably noticed that our website has a very different look as of late.

It’s a work in progress but be sure to check it often for the latest URSP News and Highlights!

arch.umd.edu/ursp/urban-studies-and-planning

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HOWIE BAUM RETIRES FROM UMD AFTER 40 YEARS OF TEACHING

Angie Martinez

Students in this spring’s Social Planning course were privy to a poignant URSP milestone as esteemed UMD Professor and researcher Howell (Howie) Baum retired from teaching after 40 years with the program. Howie earned his PhD in City and Regional Planning from the University of California at Berkeley in 1974. He also holds a Master of City Planning (1971) also from UC Berkley and a Master of Arts in American Civilization from the University of Pennsylvania (1968).

Howie began teaching at the University of Maryland in 1974 as an Assistant Professor in the Baltimore campus School of Social Work and Community Planning. He is the last professor to retire who has been with the program since its transition to the Urban Studies and Planning program in College Park. During that time he has taught undergraduate courses on community and diversity, master’s courses on social planning, politics and planning, the planning process, community, the planning profession, and planning in groups and organizations, as well as studio and a seminar for students in internships, and doctoral courses in planning theory. He has published seven books and dozens of articles and book chapters on the planning profession, planning practice, organizational behavior, planning education, community development, community action, school reform, and school desegregation. His book Brown in Baltimore was an Honorable Mention for the 2011 Paul Davidoff Book Award from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning.

Raised in a politically active household, Howie felt from an early age that he wanted to work toward the improvement of society. However, this desire did not immediately translate into a career in planning.

Instead, when his American Civilization master’s thesis research showed him how an urban renewal project harmed a Philadelphia African-American community, he concluded that the planning field offered the opportunity to do things differently, to “do good.” Early in his planning study he found that problems like the destruction of low-income neighborhoods in urban renewal were not simply a result of planners’ not knowing enough about communities, but also a product of conflicting interests between large institutions and disadvantaged populations. That insight has guided his thinking about planning purposes and strategies.

Students fondly remember having Howie as an instructor. Stephen Janes, a 1987 alumnus of the Social Work and Planning program, is now the Assistant Commissioner of Research and Compliance at Baltimore Housing Authority. Mr. Janes recalls that Howie was one of the first people he met when he moved to Baltimore to attend the program; “he was the youngest member of the faculty; closer in age to his students than other faculty members”.

Continued on next page
Howie Baum Retires from UMD After 40 Years of Teaching

Continued from previous page

He also recalls that as an instructor Howie was both “fun and funny” and able to engage even the most reserved student; a thought echoed by current URSP student Tanya Sayyed, “Howie is able to bring to life to the classroom by encouraging students to share stories and debate options”.

Among Howie’s greatest personal achievements is working with Southeast Baltimore community members and educators to establish the South East Education Task Force. The taskforce, a university and community partnership, lasted for 6 years and served as a laboratory for Howie and his students to work toward effecting change in the Baltimore City School System. Of all work done by the taskforce Howie says that the most tangible is the full-service community school program at Tench Tilghman Elementary School in East Baltimore. The project is still ongoing and brings in-house health, nutrition and mental health services to at-risk students.

Howie believes that the experience made him a more effective, confident and reflective instructor; attributes which are appreciated by his students. Tanya says, “Dr. Baum’s personal and professional experiences brought to light the cycles of poverty, gentrification and inequality in choices of housing, education and employment that affect the people we as social planners must strive to include and empower.”

Howie’s teaching philosophy has centered on preparing students to think critically about their role as professional planners but he adds that being an effective teacher is as important as it is time consuming. He elaborates, “Teaching is a funny business, and you don’t know the effect, if any, that you have on students at the time”.

His past students happen to think differently.

Mr. Janes remarked, “Howie is a great practitioner of applied intellectualism; an alchemist that turns theoretical constructs and historical knowledge into something that can be applied on the ground to everyday circumstances”. Tanya adds: He gave us all a solid foundation in social planning from which each of us can focus our own interests in contributing to uplifting communities. I believe that, rather than just impart knowledge concerning the steps social planners must take, Dr. Baum’s final course taught us that we must dig deeper into our hearts if we are to even begin to tackle the issues allowing large groups of people to be marginalized. I appreciated that he gave us all faith in his own feelings of hope for a better future for communities that work together towards common goals”.

UMD Professor, Dr. Willow Lung Amam believes that Howie’s influence goes beyond his students; “In his quiet way, he has rocked the world of planning with his insights on urban inequality and the plight of underprivileged communities. His career has beautifully blended a commitment to service and scholarship, serving as a model to young social planning practitioners and students far beyond UMD.”

Howie looks forward to his retirement but plans to devote much of his newly found free time toward scholarly work. Specifically, he hopes to research and write on the differences between liberal and conservative assumptions about human nature and how they lead to different policy positions on issues like poverty and racial inequality.
LEFRAK LECTURE

URSP hosts Dr. Martin (Marty) Wachs for the 2013 Annual Samuel J. Lefrak Lecture and Seminar

For the past 30 years, The Samuel J. Lefrak Lecture and Seminar series has brought planning scholars and experts from around the world to the University of Maryland to speak on a timely planning issue. The event connects students, alumni, faculty, staff and the public to the current challenges and research shaping all facets of planning and the built environment.

For the 2013 lecture, URSP hosted Dr. Marty Wachs, a senior principal at RAND Corporation and professor at the Pardee RAND Graduate School. Dr. Wachs is the author of 160 articles and four books on subjects related to the relationship of transportation to finance, equity, air quality, land use and performance measures. Dr. Wachs served on the Executive Committee of the Transportation Research Board for nine years and is the recipient of numerous awards including a Guggenheim Fellowship, two Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowships, and the UCLA Distinguished Teaching award.

In his lecture, entitled “Taxes, Tolls and the Crisis in Transportation Finance,” Dr. Wachs offered his expert perspective on the crisis of transportation finance in relation to planning and policy.

The lecture was well attended by students and faculty. URSP Assistant Professor Hiro Iseki had the following reflections on Dr. Wachs’s talk: “Dr. Wachs is one of the first scholars who started asking questions about the stability of US highway finance, which heavily depends on fuel taxes. His lecture was comprehensive on the subject, putting things in the historical context, applying economics to analyze the situation of transportation finance, and considering relevant public choice, technologies, and equity issues. Most importantly, he provides prescriptions of this critical transportation policy problem.”

The following day a seminar session was held where students, staff, and members of the public reconvened to discuss the ideas from the night before. Dr. Wachs expanded on future of transportation finance, economic realities, possible intervention and political feasibility. “I enjoyed being able to speak with Dr. Wachs personally the morning after the lecture” said Nick Finio, a second year planning student. “The lecture was an excellent primer for the land use and transportation class I will be taking next spring.”

Article by Angie Martinez

The Lefrak series is made possible by a generous donation by the Samuel J. Ethel Lefrak Foundation
The event is open to all students, alumni, faculty, staff and the general public.
Congratulations to this year’s MCP graduating class! Commencement was celebrated on May 23, 2014 in the Dekelboum Concert Hall at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center.

This year’s graduates found positions at:
- Brailsford and Dunlavey
- City of Greenbelt
- City of Harrisburg
- Hyattsville Community Development Corp.
- Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service
- Vantage Point Economic and Transportation Development Strategies, and more!

### MCP Graduates

- Dario Alvarez
- Kayla Gail Anthony
- Rebecca Anne Bankard
- Jessica Bellah
- Aviva Hopkins Brown
- Janay Nicole Brunson
- Alexander Dominguez Conway
- Matthew Joseph Dolamore
- Daniel Lewis Engelberg
- Ryan Robert Hall
- Justine Elizabeth Kendall
- Mary Eileen O’Connell
- Oluseyi Ayomidipupo Olugbenle
- Joshua David Schnitzlein
- Maia Nzinga Shanklin Roberts
- James Robert Spatz
- Andrew Duncan Van Gordon

#### PhD Graduate

Carolina Valdermarin Burnier

(Left) Marie Howland and Urban and Regional Planning and Design Ph.D. graduate, Carolina Burnier.
URSP ANNUAL AWARDS

Congratulations, 2014 Graduates!

Larry Reich Award
Larry Reich was Baltimore City Department of Planning Director 1965 – 1990 and was a central figure in the City’s Downtown Renaissance, a proponent of community-based planning and neighborhood initiatives, and an opponent of proposed highways that would have obliterated some of Baltimore’s most historic neighborhoods. The Larry Reich Award is given annual to a M.C.P. student who has shown initiative and leadership in an area of urban revitalization or economic development.
Awarded to Matthew Joseph Dolamore

Robert James Award
Robert Janes was a University of Maryland Sociology professor who created the University’s Urban Studies program. Responding to the urban unrest of the 1960s, he established a broad, multi-disciplinary program aimed at preparing practitioners who could improve city conditions. The Robert Janes award is given to an URSP graduating student for contributions to the mission of the Urban Studies and Planning Program.
Awarded to Dario Alvarez

AICP Award
The American Institute of Certified Planners Award is given to the Urban Studies and Planning Program student with an extraordinary excellent in academic achievement
Awarded to James Robert Spatz

Melvin Levin Outstanding MCP Student Award
Dr. Levin was chairman of the Urban Studies and Planning program at the University of Maryland, College Park from 1978 to 1989. This award recognizes the student’s high level of scholarship, as well as the student’s leadership and commitment to enhancing the quality of the program. The student epitomizes the planning student we seek to recruit and ultimately graduate into the profession planning field.
Awarded to Kayla Gail Anthony

Samuel J. Lefrak Award
Samuel J. Lefrak was one of the foremost leaders in the housing industry of the 20th century. He is credited with making several important contributions to urban revitalization in New York City. This award is presented to a MCP student in recognition of the student’s scholarship and commitment to the vision and goals of the planning profession.
Awarded to Justine Elizabeth Kendall

URSP Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award
This award is presented to a graduating student (or students) in Urban Studies and Planning whose work performance as a Graduate Research Assistant and/or Teaching Assistant has been outstanding.
Awarded to Molly O’Connell
Current URSP student Andrew Casavant and four other graduate students from UMD’s Architecture, Real Estate Development and Landscape Architecture programs took top honors at the 12th Annual 2014 Urban Land Institute Gerald D. Hines Student Urban Design Competition (UCL/Hines) this spring. The ideas competition challenges teams to create dynamic development solutions for a real, large-scale site.

Over 160 teams from 72 universities competed in this year’s competition. The challenge was based on a hypothetical situation, in which site owners asked for proposals to transform the historic Sulphur Dell neighborhood in Nashville, TN. As part of ULI’s Building Healthy Places Initiative, students were also challenged to develop a proposal which would promote healthy living. According to Andrew, the area’s strengths include the central location, surrounding attractions and historical Germantown neighborhood. However, “the lack of identity in the area and development pressure presents a challenge to establish a new identity that is compatible with the unique culture of Nashville”. Other area challenges include poor connectivity and walkability.

“Chords”, the UMD winning design, orchestrates an innovative partnership between existing landowners, a common developer and the State of Tennessee to produce a creative and financially feasible way to build on area strengths and provide design solutions to its challenges. Chords brings together Sulphur Dell’s diverse communities through four north-south connectors.

The team was praised for their attention to marketing research and solid understanding of the development which would appeal to Nashville culture. According to Andrew, “throughout the experience I learned a lot about how real estate shapes design. I had not realized the degree that the market demand for certain types of housing, for example, may affect urban form and defining open space.” Andrew says the experience had additional benefits. “The process of carefully choreographing and rehearsing our presentation, and importantly how to sell the idea to the audience were valuable lessons that will translate well to professional practice where how you present your ideas to communities or other professionals can matter a great deal.”

Andrew was joined by students David Ensor (Master of Architecture), Matthew Miller (Master of Architecture), Amina Mohamed (Master of Landscape Architecture) and Rameez Munawar, (Master of Real Estate Development). Professor of Architecture Matthew Bell, FAIA and Tim Phillips of the Bozzuto Group (MRED ’11) were the team’s advisors. The team beat finalist teams from Harvard University, University of Texas and Georgia Institute of Technology. As the winning team, the students were awarded the first prize of $50,000.

To read more about “Chords” and view UMD’s presentation board visit the ULI Site http://uli.org/awards/2014-hines-competition-university-maryland/
The National Center for Smart Growth (NCSG) was busy with innovative projects this past year. New projects, such as the Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS) and PRESTO: Plan for Regional Sustainability Tomorrow are beginning to flourish. Major events at NCSG this year included the Purple Line Corridor Coalition Workshop, Makeover Montgomery Conference, and High School GIS Internship Program. Additionally, projects from previous years, such as the City of Baltimore Opportunity Mapping and the Brown Bag Series continue to succeed at NCSG.

**Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS)**

PALS is a new, university-wide program that brings together the expertise of UMD faculty and students to help Maryland communities become more environmentally, economically and socially sustainable. Developed by the National Center for Smart Growth, PALS will foster a relationship between departments at the University of Maryland and the City of Frederick, Maryland for the 2014-2015 academic school year. Over 300 students and faculty from across campus will actively engage Frederick through 28 different courses throughout the 2014-2015 year. The students will address challenges such as urban revitalization, stormwater management, and economic development. PALS will provide students with real world experiences while offering local communities University resources and expertise to help them become a leading sustainable community.

**Joint Seminar: Tongji University, Beijing University of Technology, National Center for Smart Growth**

On August 4 the NCSG sponsored a joint seminar between the Beijing University of Technology, Tongji University and the NCSG. The seminar strengthened ties among the Universities and allowed each to benefit from transportation research conducted by the other. The seminar featured presentations by Dr. Jin Rong of the Beijing University of Technology, Dr. Xiaohang Chen of Tongji University and Dr. Fred Ducca, Director, Transportation Policy Research Group of the NCSG. The presenters covered major research activities under the supervision of each of the presenters. These presentations were followed by a forum on research projects conducted by visiting students at the NCSG; Xiang Wang from Tongji University and Shuwei Wang from Beijing University of Technology.

**PRESTO: Plan for Regional Sustainability Tomorrow**

Sponsored by the Town Creek Foundation and developed by NCSG, PRESTO will develop and promote the implementation of sustainable development strategies for the Baltimore-Washington area. PRESTO will work with the region to create baseline scenarios and analytical tools that will stimulate discussion surrounding the future and sustainability of the region. Following the initial baseline scenario, PRESTO will analyze the forces shaping the region’s future to create alternative scenarios and models. These enhanced models will provide the region with scientifically-based alternatives, stimulate conversation on sustainability, and will help promote the adoption of policies to lead to a more sustainable future.
Purple Line Corridor Coalition and Workshop

The Purple Line Corridor Coalition (PLCC), spearheaded by the National Center for Smart Growth, is a collaboration of local governments, nonprofits, philanthropies, and employers to discuss and plan for the impending changes the Purple Line will bring to the regional community.

On March 21, 2014, the Purple Line Corridor Coalition hosted “Beyond the Tracks: Community Development in the Purple Line Corridor”, bringing over 260 community leaders, business owners, and local officials to the Architecture building. Participants discussed potential changes to the Purple Line Corridor, including topics such as economic and workforce development, affordable housing, small business retention, and development through design.

The workshop hosted keynote speakers Dr. Wallace D. Loh, President of the University of Maryland, County Executives Rushern Baker and Isiah Legget from Prince George’s County and Montgomery County, and HUD’s Director of Economic Resilience, Harriet Tregoning.

An interactive map of the Purple Line can be found at: http://knaaptime.com/maps/purpleline

Makeover Montgomery 2 | Moving Forward Montgomery Conference

Following the success of Makeover Montgomery in 2011, NCSG, the Montgomery County Planning Department and the Urban Studies and Planning Program hosted Makeover Montgomery 2 | Moving Forward Montgomery: The Continuing Transformation of America’s Suburbs. From May 8 through May 10, planners, architects, environmentalists, community advocates, and residents gathered to discuss how to adapt to demographic shifts, changing housing preferences, and growing infrastructure costs, all while creating and maintaining sustainable communities. Conference tracks included Transportation and TOD, Creative Use of Public Assets/Public Private Partnerships, and Current Planning Trends.

To learn more about Makeover Montgomery and to hear the featured presentations, please visit: http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/events/makeover2014/

To learn more about the National Center for Smart Growth’s projects and upcoming brown bag webinar speakers, please visit: www.smartgrowth.umd.edu
The Illinois Science and Technology Coalition (ISTC) has tapped Assistant Research Professor Dr. Scott Dempwolf to develop an innovation network model that will be at the heart of the Illinois Science & Technology Roadmap, the first data-driven study of Illinois’ innovation ecosystem. The goal of the Roadmap is to create a shared understanding of Illinois’ position and potential in science and technology, and to leverage the state’s science and technology assets to accelerate innovation-driven economic growth. The six-month, $44,686 contract will extend research from Dempwolf’s doctoral dissertation, completed in 2012 at the School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.

In recent years, industry cluster analysis has been the dominant approach to understanding regional economic structure and performance, with various innovation indexes employed to determine innovation performance. However, these tools have significant limitations: they do not measure innovation directly and often miss more subtle innovation growth like new technologies and start-ups.

Dempwolf’s model offers something never before seen in technology cluster analyses, yet critical to understanding a cluster’s ability to develop, commercialize and adopt new technologies: it accurately pinpoints companies and individuals engaged in new technology and innovative activity and reveals the networks between them.

“For example, using traditional cluster analysis the Illinois Battery Manufacturing cluster showed limited potential with just 18 firms employing 565 people statewide. However with a 2012 federal investment of $120 Million in the Joint Center for Energy Storage Research (JCESR) at Argonne National Laboratory, our network analysis revealed significant university-industry collaboration and collaboration potential among these firms and JCESR member universities.

Through the eyes of an economic developer, JCESR’s five year plan to develop batteries with five times the storage capacity at one-fifth of today’s cost means that there will new production jobs up for grabs in 2017. If the state hopes to gain those jobs in 2017 there are some specific strategies they need to put in place right away to help firms and workers get ready.”

In practice, this new intelligence will allow the state to target economic and workforce development tools and resources with much greater precision. The resulting information will focus on industries and technologies that have innovations in the pipeline, and which are more likely to create new manufacturing jobs and economic growth over the next several years. With this network analysis tool, the Roadmap will allow economic developers to quickly identify and engage specific people, firms, institutions and agencies around specific technologies that possess the highest growth potential. This capacity will make Illinois companies, communities and institutions much more competitive as they work to attract new talent, businesses and investment in order to accelerate innovation driven growth.

Dempwolf is currently the director of the University of Maryland – Morgan State Joint Center for Economic Development, an Economic Development Administration (EDA). A funded University Center, where they are utilizing this new technology in Maryland and beyond. The Illinois Science & Technology Roadmap is scheduled to be unveiled at the State Science & Technology Institute’s (SSTI) annual conference in Chicago, September 14-16, 2014.
GIS HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP
“Building Communities through Technology”: An Internship to Educate and Empower High School Students in Urban Planning

The National Center for Smart Growth and the Urban Studies and Planning Program at the University of Maryland, College Park, proudly co-sponsored the six week high school GIS internship, “Building Communities through Technology.” The internship was designed to introduce high school students to the technology of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and to apply these newly learned skills to a real world issue faced by an actual client, the City of College Park. The city requested assistance of interns to assess the walkability of six priority streets in order to better guide their Safe Routes to Schools and Complete Streets policies. In March, a call for students who could commit to the 6 week, unpaid internship was sent to guidance counselors in Prince George’s County, Montgomery County, and selected schools in DC. Of the 25 applicants, seven interns from Maryland, DC, and Cleveland, Ohio were selected to participate.

The internship was led by Chelsie Miller, a graduate student in the Urban Studies and Planning program, and Dr. Alexander Chen, Associate Professor in the Urban Studies and Planning Program. In order to properly assess the City of College Park’s walkability, the first three weeks of the internship were spent equipping interns with technical skills and conducting field work.

Interns Xavier Benjamin and Quentin Davis survey priority streets in College Park. The students shared the results of their analysis and recommendations with city officials at the end of their internship.

Interns were introduced to ArcGIS, CartoDB, Adobe Photoshop, and Google’s Hyperlapse. Technical support was also provided by the National Center for Smart Growth’s, Eli Knaap, who instructed students in OpenStreet Map and University of Maryland Libraries’ Mary Kate Cannistra, who introduced the students to Esri’s Story Map. Terrapin Learning Commons provided interns with iPads to collect field work through the mobile application Quick Tap Survey.

The interns created a PowerPoint presentation, written report, poster, and website to showcase their work, including a StoryMap and Hyperlapse. To view this website their work, please visit www.ter.ps/6bm

NCSG Intern Team (left to right) Chelsie Miller (adviser), Alex Tran, Xavier Benjamin, Albert Jiang, Quentin Davis, Greg McCourt, Iko Esemato and Sarah Bender.
For the final three weeks of the internship, interns organized, collected data, and mapped their results for analysis. Some data collected includes size of pot holes, existence or lack of sidewalks, location of utility and light poles, and location of buffer strips. Based on collected data, interns visualized and analyzed the physical infrastructure of the selected streets using GIS technology. Interns also created a grading rubric to assess the walkability, rank and prioritize each of the six streets.

Interns completed the six weeks with a presentation to share their work and recommendations to the City of College Park. Niambi Wilder, Communications Director for the Graduate School, provided guidance to the intern’s presentation techniques. On July 31, interns presented in the City’s Council Chambers to officials of College Park, including council member Fazlul Kabir. “We found the results from the study extremely helpful and will certainly help prioritize repair work on major streets in our neighborhoods” said Council Member Kabir. Council Member Wojahn and I have already shared the project’s findings with our residents. They truly appreciate the work. I’m also sharing this with my Council colleagues.”

Though the internship focused on enhancing technical skills, it also provided an opportunity to learn about the University of Maryland. Each week, interns had lunch with members of the University of Maryland community to learn more about the life of college students and the different opportunities the University of Maryland offers. To that end, we are appreciative of the undergraduate advising offices of Geographic Sciences, Architecture, Letters and Sciences, the Honors College, Engineering, and Angela Martinez, and Studies and Planning program for meeting with our interns, and discussing opportunities at Maryland.

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**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER UPDATES**

Marie Howland

The University of Maryland-Morgan State Center for Economic Development will begin work on St. Mary’s County Maryland’s first ever Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) this summer pending final approval of the one year, $86,796 contract by the County Commissioners. The CEDS will help prepare and guide future planning efforts, government initiatives and economic growth in the rapidly growing region. It will also feature enhanced cluster analysis using innovation network modeling and analysis methods developed by University Center director, Dr. Scott Dempwolf. Dempwolf’s modeling tools, the subject of his dissertation and ongoing research, identify unique opportunities typically missed by traditional modeling, such as new technologies and entrepreneurial start-ups.

On September 4th, 2010 Congressman Steny Hoyer announced that a $100,000 grant was awarded to the Center. The grant will fund the fourth year of a five-year program program between the University of Maryland and Morgan State University to foster economic development in Maryland.

“I’m pleased to announce the EDA University Center has received grant funding to continue working with local communities to expand economic development opportunities,” stated Congressman Hoyer. “From St. Mary’s County to College Park, the EDA program is having a significant impact on communities across the Fifth District and the state of Maryland, and I am confident that it will continue to spur innovation, grow our economy, and help create opportunities for more Marylanders.”

For the full press release and more information visit: [http://www.umdedauniversitycenter.com/](http://www.umdedauniversitycenter.com/)
PREPARING FOR MULTICULTURALISM AND THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Dr. Alex Chen

This spring the URSP Program hosted a campus wide panel session, “Preparing for Multiculturalism and the Global Community” (March 14, 2014). With financial support from the Urban Studies and Planning Program, and the Global Leaders series, Office of International Affairs, School of Public Policy, representatives from the Peace Corps as well returning Peace Corps volunteers shared their experiences and discussed how these insights could be used to educate students preparing to work in a multicultural society. The keynote speaker was Helen Lowman, Associate Director, Volunteer Recruitment and Selection.

Our panel of Returning Peace Corps Volunteers included Jessica Folk, Technical Training Specialist, the Peace Corps, as well as two Urban Studies and Planning alumni, Andrew Bernish (Class of 2012) and now a Planner with Maryland’s Department of Planning; and Shannon Grevious Guzman (Class of 2008), now a Policy Research Senior Analyst at the American Association of Retired Person’s Public Policy Institute. Prior to the session, a special reception for alumni and friends of the Urban Studies and Planning program was held and provided an opportunity for all of us to reconnect. Both events were well attended.

CODE FOR COMMUNITY

Program gains traction in its second year

Dr. Alex Chen continues his work on the Code for Community Competition. With support from the University’s Division of Information Technology, Academy for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, the Office of Sustainability, and the College Park Scholars Program, students were once again challenged to create a mobile / web based app to meet a community need. This year with $1,750 in prize money, and a new course specifically designed to provide student support, 12 teams and over 50 students accepted the challenge. The winners were announced in April 2014, with apps that spanned community issues from clothing to health to food.

The announcement for the Spring 2015 Code for Community Competition and videos of the winning apps are available online at the Code for Community website. www.ter.ps/5zq
STUDENT PLANNING ASSOCIATION

Year in Review

It’s been quite the year for the Student Planning Association (SPA)! We started off by welcoming the incoming class with a well-attended happy hour. The mixer was a great way to introduce new students to each other and continuing students! The rest of the year was jam packed with networking, professional and volunteer events.

SPA President Kayla Anthony played an integral role in our organization this year. One highlight was our role in organizing the first ever DMV Planning Schools Joint Happy Hour where planning students from UMD, George Washington University, Virginia Tech and Georgetown were invited to meet and network. Aviva Brown acted as the coordinator with the Maryland APA chapter to host this year’s Alumni Career Panel and Resume Clinic (see feature below).

SPA also brought students closer together. We tailgated for the UMD vs. Syracuse game, visited the National Building Museum, and volunteered at Real Food Farm in Baltimore.

This August, several SPA members took part in the URSP Bootcamp for incoming students by presenting Planning Greatest Hits in the DMV. The presentation gave incoming students an overview of past and present planning projects in the Maryland area which serve as examples in student studies. SPA members presented an overview of notable planning projects including the Purple and Silver Lines, Ballston-Rosslyn corridor development, Baltimore Harbor redevelopment and various projects in DC.

In the 2014-2015 academic year SPA plans to host several professional development, volunteer and alumni events.

Keep up to date with the latest SPA activities and events

umdspa.com

STUDENT PLANNING ASSOCIATION

SPA Hosts Annual Alumni Career Panel and Resume Clinic

The Student Planning Association (SPA) held its Annual career Panel and Resume Clinic on March 4th, 2014. The panel consisted of UMD Alumni representing various areas in the planning field. Panelist first explained their career journey then opened the discussion to questions related to careers, jobs, trends in planning and more. After the event, panelist reviewed student’s resumes.

SPA would like to thank volunteers from the Maryland APA Chapter and URSP Program for their support in organizing the program.

William Mackey (Howard County DPZ)
David Whitaker (Maryland Department of Planning)
James Palma (Maryland Dept of Business and Economic Development)
**Chelsie Miller** is a second year student in the Urban Studies and Planning program. Originally from Bedford, Texas, Chelsie’s interest in cities and communities led her to pursue a dual major in Social Work and Geography at the University of Texas at Austin.

After completing her Bachelor in 2010 Chelsie made the jump from student to Peace Corps Volunteer, serving as a Girls Education and Empowerment Agent in Togo, West Africa. There, Chelsie led an after school science club to encourage girls in the sciences, built the first science lab in her village’s local high school, and organized a national summer camp to provide youth with critical life skills, such as self-confidence, HIV/AIDS education, and financial literacy.

Chelsie found her two year experience highly formative, “Living in a developing country allowed me to see how vital infrastructure and city planning is to a secure environment for everyone”. Upon her return from Togo, Chelsie worked as a medical social worker for ActionAIDS, a HIV/AIDS nonprofit in Philadelphia, PA. It was there that Chelsie saw a clear connection between the influences of planning on public health in her own country. “The clients I worked with all faced a terminal illness, yet the biggest obstacles in their lives were all related to policies and planning. Most of them lacked affordable housing, access to public transportation to get to their medical appointments, or access to healthy food markets to ensure proper nutrition.”

Realizing that the biggest impact she could have would be to address these issues on a macro level, she decided to pursue a graduate education in planning. Chelsie entered the URSP program at UMD in the fall of 2013. While a Graduate Research Assistant with the National Center for Smart Growth, Chelsie helped create thematic maps highlighting how communities will be affected by the Purple Line. She also assisted the coordination of the Purple Line Workshop, “Beyond the Tracks” for the Purple Line Corridor Coalition. Additionally, this summer Chelsie organized and taught a six-week GIS internship for seven high school students. (See story in issue).

This fall, Chelsie is working at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) to develop sub-county level data between DHMH and the Department of Planning in a GIS environmental health framework.

In the future she hopes to work for a research institute that focuses on public health, social policies, and planning related issues. She is also interested in how planners and public health practitioners can work together to utilize technologies, like GIS and Twitter, to address social and public health issues.

**Matt Jones** is a second year student in the Urban Studies and Planning program. A native Washingtonian and a proud DC Public Schools alumnus, Matt attended the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, receiving a bachelor’s degree in marketing. Matt says “Spending four years in rural Massachusetts was eye opening as it allowed me to experience a different region of the country, different culture, completely different urban form and there was hardly any public transportation.”

Matt has spent the last six years of his professional career marketing the University of Maryland to high school students. The catalyst that brought Matt to the planning profession was watching his hometown, Washington, DC, go through a major transformation to become the “coolest city” (according to Forbes) in the country. His planning interests are economic development, transit, placemaking and urban design.

Not wasting anytime, Matt interned during the spring 2014 semester with the office of Councilwoman Nancy Navarro of the Montgomery County Council. Matt says learning about the legislative process with regard to planning was eye opening. The two main projects Matt focused on were Montgomery County’s bus rapid transit plan and the Clarksburg’s 10 Mile Creek Master Plan. Matt is currently interning with the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation (USRC). He primarily is working on the facilities planning process in preparation for the $7 billion project that will transform the over 100 year old station into a 21st century multi-modal, high-speed capable, mixed use transit hub.

Outside of class Matt enjoys exploring college towns, cooking and entertaining, and giving tours of DC. Matt still advises prospective students as well as current students and staff to determine if the program is a good fit for their academic and career goals. Matt is very active in the Student Planning Association (SPA) working to advance career development for current students and alumni relations.
This past April, 2014 I had the privilege to attend my maiden APA National Conference in Atlanta. As a second year Master of Community Planning student I joined nearly a dozen of my UMD peers, each of us lured by the promised exposure to the latest and greatest planning initiatives and talent. The five day conference offered an opportunity to engage in a national conversation around planning areas of personal interest, network with leading planners and fellow graduate students from across the country, and most importantly to challenge myself professionally.

One of the principal conference tracks in Atlanta focused on the impacts of immigration on the planning profession. I had written my admissions statement to UMD on that very topic and over the previous two years had spent much of my time exploring the limits of planning with and for immigrant communities near Langley Park, MD.

This track facilitated my interaction with a Georgia State Senator and prominent leaders in the realm of immigration and community integration - but for me it demonstrated as well the limited and often disappointing understanding among APA leadership as regards the immigrant experience prevalent in our home towns and cities.

The planners I met and interacted with were knowledgeable, accomplished and representative of a broad spectrum of the planning field. Some of my most memorable conversations include: discussing challenges in Suburban Maryland with the Director of the Planning program at Georgia Tech; a chat with the former President of the Royal Town Planning Institute about a new and complete restructuring of planning in the United Kingdom; and interaction with fellow graduate students from Florida, Arizona, Indiana and Ohio while completing an 8-hour shift at the Bookstore as an APA student volunteer.

Beyond networking and session content - however valuable - my most important takeaway from Atlanta must be the lessons in professional development. I was fortunate to be afforded the opportunity to present original research as part of the APA student capstone session. Able to add my voice to the Immigration Track as presenter, I changed shoes from that of an attentive conference participant, to an active conference contributor. The experience was an empowering one - I have since presented in one other conference and will continue to look for similar platforms for personal challenge and development.

From my new perspective as National Network Coordinator at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service I hope to further engage APA and the planning field as a contributing voice in the immigration debate, be it for housing, social integration or economic development. The conference served as a platform for me to transition from student to professional. Atlanta and the people I interacted with provided invaluable motivation to further engage my chosen field and look for platforms from which to share and learn from others’ successes, challenges, and best practices.

The URSP Program provides travel and housing scholarships to students who present at national conferences, including APA.

In 2013, these scholarships were awarded to Matt Dolamore and David Do
APA CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

Katie Gerbes - Class of 2015

The 2014 Conference in Atlanta, Georgia was my first time at the National Planning Conference and it was an incredibly valuable experience.

I signed up through APA to be a student volunteer not knowing what exactly I would be doing, but it ended up being wonderful. I was in Atlanta a few days before the conference to sightsee, so I was recruited to work on the Friday before the conference, assisting in set up and registration. My job was to check people's registrations and give them their schedule and messenger bag. Although the work was on the surface menial, it ended up giving me valuable face time with many experienced members of the planning community and I was able to chat with many of the experienced conference goers.

I also took advantage of the APA Student Mentor program, which I would highly recommend to other students. I filled out a brief questionnaire about my interests and experience and was matched with Martin Scribner, a planner from Kentucky with 16 years of experience. Martin was helpful in more ways than one. Of course having an opportunity to candidly ask career questions was welcomed, but Martin is very involved in APA leadership so I truly got more than I bargained for when following him around. He is on the board of the New Urbanism division, so I got to meet his fellow board members and attend a division-sponsored event. Additionally, he worked the resume clinic, so was more than happy to give my vitae a glance.

I recommend the mentor program to other students because of the great connections that can be made. While in Atlanta I met up with Ben Hitchings, Planning Director for the Town of Morrisville, NC. I know Ben from my time as an intern with APA. Ben was so excited to get caught up to date with my studies and jumped right in to discussing who at the conference he could connect me to.

APA provides an excellent platform to connect students via their mentorship programs and to maintain professional relationships. In my experience, the mentors are enthusiastic and excited to share trade secrets and truly want upcoming players in the field to excel.
Efforts to revitalize historic downtowns in older American cities have gained traction over the past few decades, and Baltimore is no exception. Baltimore has been a leader in those efforts, largely beginning with the revitalization of the Inner Harbor in the late 1970’s by James Rouse. Harborplace was a pioneering example of a development paradigm that came to be known as the “festival marketplace”. This raises questions about redevelopment of this area – should downtown be a regional tourist destination or retail center? Should it be primarily a residential neighborhood? A set of sub-districts?

This studio examined the Westside district of Baltimore, the City’s historic downtown retail center, and wrestled with these ideas of what definitions and functions best fit with the area’s current market. This framed the challenge of determining the appropriate redevelopment strategy.

Report Authors
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Faculty Advisors: Scott Dempwolf and Marie Howland

Read the full report online: http://www.arch.umd.edu/ursp/project/westside-baltimore-paradigm-identity-scale

Studio students present their report to UMD faculty and community stake holders. (1) Students (from left) Kayla Anthony and Jessica Bella and (2) students (from left) Matt Dolamore, Kayla Anthony, Jessica Bella, Jim Spatz, Daniel Engelberg and Andrew Casavant.
Every 3 years, Professor Sydney Brower takes URSP second year students to Cape Town, South Africa, for a summer studio abroad. This summer, five URSP students studied informal townships of Cape Town.

These settlements are areas of Cape Town that were not planned for, but rather grew out of a need for housing during the years of Apartheid. A need that continue on today. Informal settlements abut many of the middle and upper class homes in Cape Town, with shacks built from any materials available and fashioned with rusty tin roofs. This summer studio focused on the Litha Park informal settlement, a settlement with a population of about 1,500, an unemployment rate of 61%, and 1 water tap for every 111 people. For four weeks, the students worked closely with their partner NGO, Community Organization Resource Centre (CORC) to address the largest challenges facing Litha Park, including safety (crime, fire hazards, flooding) and economic development.

Mandi Solomon, a second year URSP and Historic Preservation student, has always had an interest in international planning. Mandi took the summer studio abroad as an opportunity to learn more about different community systems and new skills to plan for communities.

“"The biggest take away from South Africa is the knowledge that planning for communities is completely different depending on the community that one is working with," says Mandi. "Planning must be done with community members as much as possible." During the four weeks, URSP students interviewed residents, toured living facilities, worked with local NGOs and urban planners, and studied the rich history behind these informal settlements.”

The studio course reconvened in College Park to pool their ideas for creating a safer community into a final product. Ideas from the studio session are geared to range from low cost and low outside community help to higher cost and higher outside community (such as government and NGO) help. The hope is the community will be able to use these ideas to help create safer communities.

Article by Chelsie Miller

View the full studio report online: [http://www.arch.umd.edu/ursp/projects](http://www.arch.umd.edu/ursp/projects)
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Tiffany Williams, Class of 2008

From Detroit to Ann Arbor, from Philadelphia to DC, from student to teacher, 2008 alum Tiffany Williams always knew that she’d one day return to her hometown of Detroit. Tiffany earned her Master in Community Planning from UMD in 2008. She also holds a B.A in Sociology and Afro-American Studies from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and a Master of Science in Education from St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. In March 2014 Tiffany was named Executive Director of the Detroit region’s Teach For America program. Prior to her work with Teach For America-Detroit, Tiffany taught sixth-grade special education for Teach For America-Philadelphia.

Tiffany’s deep ties to the Motor City begin with her maternal and paternal grandparents, whose families both migrated to Detroit from Tennessee and Alabama in the 20th century during the First and Second Great Migrations. While her parents worked, she attended Detroit Public Schools. “As someone born and raised in Detroit who attended its schools, I know firsthand the struggles many of our kids face and the importance of having committed and compassionate adults helping to raise them up.”

It was within the walls of Detroit’s Cass Technical High School that Tiffany recalls first being introduced to the concept of community development. An impassioned discussion with her sophomore chemistry teacher, Dr. Randall Raymond, about his research on the impact of lead paint exposure on students in Detroit Public Schools turned into an opportunity to take on work as a research assistant. Tiffany recalls that after that experience she knew that she wanted to study city planning and focus her work in Detroit, but her educational and professional path would take her elsewhere first.

After completing her degree in Sociology and Afro-American Studies at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Tiffany worked as a special education teacher for Teach For America in Philadelphia.

“My time as a teacher in a low-income community reinforced my belief that schools should be at the center of communities.”

Shortly after completing her Master’s in Education at St. Joseph’s University, Tiffany went on to study planning at UMD. “I was accepted to several planning programs but I chose UMD based on my interaction with Dr. Alex Chen at the school open house. When I shared with him my desire to understand how schools truly serve as the catalyst of community and economic development- he truly listened. Jim Cohen and Alex Chen both made me feel like I would be joining a supportive community that would offer a quality education”.

To complement her studies at Maryland, her activities ranged from helping to coordinate the Connecting Children to Community Initiative between the Program and Northwood High School, a local partnership that continues to this day, to being part of the first place team in a national real estate development case competition hosted by the George Washington Real Estate and Development organization. In addition, she interned with Prince George’s County Planning Department as a neighborhood planner and the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development as a risk underwriter, as well as worked for an affordable housing development firm in the District. Upon graduation she was awarded the Program’s “Outstanding Student Leadership Award”.

Tiffany Williams (MCP 2008) was named Executive Director of the Detroit region’s Teach For America program in March 2014.
Tiffany says that although she spent much of her adult life away from Detroit she always knew that she would return. “When the opportunity arose to help establish Teach For America in my hometown in 2010, I jumped at the chance”. Before her appointment as Executive Director, Tiffany held several high level positions within the organization including, Senior Managing Director of Teacher Leadership Development, Vice President of Regional Operations and Interim Executive Director. “My love for Detroit runs deep, and I have had the pleasure of seeing firsthand how the work of our teachers, alumni, and staff – in partnership with students and families – can transform the lives of children.”

As executive director of Teach For America’s Detroit region Tiffany leads nearly 250 Detroit teachers in public and charter schools. She believes that her work is a part of a greater movement, impacting the lives of children and families and contributing to the revitalization of her hometown.

“I have dedicated my professional life to ensuring that one day the children of Detroit have access to a high-quality public education, and I know that our city will prosper only when this is true. When people think of Detroit they think of its grit and resiliency. Instead, I want them to think of its community and capital assets. I want people to recognize the beauty in this city, its people and its future. If I can look back in 10 years and see our kids graduating from college and going on to be agents of change in our community I will know that I have done my job”.

Tiffany’s role of teacher has prepared her for her role as a leader in Detroit’s Teach For American Program.

Tiffany has maintained a strong relationship with the URSP Program and especially with Professor Alex Chen who she says is her “favorite mentor, biggest champion also (her) largest challenger”. She is proud to represent UMD.

In her free time Tiffany enjoys reading, spending time with her family and decorating her first home with fiancée Thomas Taylor, a sergeant in the Detroit Police Department. Tiffany’s hometown pride is now even stronger; she and Thomas got engaged at a Detroit Tigers game.

Article by Angie Martinez
Alumni are reminded to join the MAPP Alumni Chapter
The University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation has an alumni program. Future events will include happy hours, reunions, and scholarship fundraisers. Membership in the MAPP Alumni Chapter is automatic when you join the campus-wide Maryland Alumni Association. Recent graduates receive a free one-year membership. Interested alumni may sign up for the Maryland Alumni Association at www.alumni.umd.edu.

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 Uri Avin (uavin@umd.edu) 

Uri is based in the National Center for Smart Growth (NCSG), teaches two complementary courses – Land Use Planning and The Planning Process - and has revamped them both over the past year. As a longtime practitioner, he focuses his teaching on knowledge and skill-building for reflective practice. He also networks to help students find work in Maryland after graduation.

Uri’s own work over the past year applies his ongoing interest in scenario development for planning in three projects: a federal contract to assess sketch tools used for scenario building; a white paper on how equity is treated in scenario work; and helping to develop scenarios for the Baltimore-Washington Region as part of PRESTO – the Plan for Regional Sustainability Tomorrow - being developed by NCSG. In the Spring of 2014, he partnered with Gerrit Knaap to lead a seminar course around this effort. In an application of his scenario software initiatives, an NCSG-based team is helping Howard County apply CommunityViz to its Southeast Area Plan. He is also part of a team developing a new zoning code for Prince George’s County and, together with Scott Dempwolf of URSP, is helping to create a plan to address the future of industrial clusters within the Beltway in the County and resolving industrial/residential land use conflicts.

This year Uri participated in a case study of Maryland by a team of visiting Israeli planners who are part of a redesign of that country’s overall planning system, moving from a top-down to a bottom-up process. He will visit Israel on a UMD grant in the Fall to explore further collaboration with several Israeli universities. In the Fall and Spring he will continue to direct PALS – the Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability – an NCSG-based initiative to focus courses campus-wide on one particular Maryland jurisdiction with the goal of enhancing its sustainability programs in all sectors. The pilot venue for PALS this year is the City of Frederick and several planning courses will use it as their case studies or focus

Alex Chen (achen@umd.edu) 

Alex continues to teach the research methods course, as well his undergraduate course on Planning for an Aging Society. This year, he worked on several activities focused on outreach and community building. He organized the March, 2014 panel session, “Preparing for Multiculturalism and the Global Community with planning student David Do; he managed the second annual campuswide 2014 Code for Community II Competition with $1750 in cash prizes; he continued his Connecting Children to Community effort, with Northwood High School, and planning student Haley Harned to conduct an audit of Wheaton, MD; he completed the Video Wall: Diversity in Urban Planning; and worked with planning student, Chelsie Miller on this Summer 2014’s GIS High School Internship program, “Building Communities with Technology”. Most recently he moderated a session on Smart Cities sponsored by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, and is currently organizing this year’s URSP Bootcamp for incoming students.

Jim Cohen (jimcohen@umd.edu) 

Jim continues his stint as program director, closing in on Marie Howland’s record for longest term of service as URSP leader. He is teaching four classes in the upcoming year, including an undergraduate course entitled “The Sustainable City: Exploring Opportunities and Challenges.” The course topic is closely connected to a paper that he and graduate student Angela Martinez are presenting at the October 2014 ACSA conference entitled “Are Green Cities Sustainable?” This summer he and Gerrit Knaap co-taught a studio class in which students worked with residents in the community of Lyttonsville (Montgomery County, MD) on environmental and “place-making” issues related to a Purple Line station that is planned for the area.

A resident of Greenbelt, MD, Jim leads the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. co-operative’s Buildings Committee, which has just submitted recommendations to the co-op’s board of directors on strategies for improving the energy efficiency of the co-op’s vintage (1930s) homes. He is looking forward to presiding over the wedding of his niece Devon in Costa Rica in early February of next year.

Casey Dawkins (dawkins1@umd.edu) 

Casey has been involved with several projects addressing housing policy in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area as well as nationally. His research examining the spatial distribution of Low Income Housing Tax Credit properties was recently published in the Journal of the American Planning Association. He has been working with the Baltimore Metropolitan Council for the last year to develop a Regional Housing Plan for the Baltimore region. That plan will be released later this fall. This summer, Dr. Dawkins and colleagues Gerrit Knaap and Willow Lung Amam have secured funding from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to examine the community-level threats and opportunities facing the residents of Langley Park, Maryland, as the community plans for a new Purple Line rail station. Dr. Dawkins has also secured funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to conduct a national study of the disabled population residing in HUD-subsidized housing to identify gaps in the supply of handicap accessible low-income housing units.
Chengri Ding (cding@umd.edu)

Chengri Ding teaches URSP courses in the microeconomics of planning (including location theory) and urban economics. He has recently been invited to contribute an article to an edited book “The Oxford Companion to the Economics of China,” by Oxford Press. The contributors to the book include four recipients of The Nobel Prize in Economics and renowned academics from top universities from China, Europe, and North America. The book provides a collection of new perspectives on the Chinese economy’s past, present, and future, covering China’s aggregate performance, the main sectoral trends, and issues of inequality and environment. Chengri’s paper focuses on issues and challenges in land policy. He has also been invited to advise the 2014 Beijing Urban Master Plan Modification by Beijing Urban Planning Commission and serve as an expert witness.

Chengri is working with Ph.D. student Yu Qiao on the impact of employment centers on new firms’ survival by using a Hazard model. Primary results suggest that the chance of new firms’ survival is high if they are located inside major employment centers and the effect fades away with the age of new firms. He will present a paper on this topic at the 2014’s Annual Conference of Regional Science Association International. Another paper with Ph.D. student Zhi Li on the relationship between city size and city growth in China. The paper will also be presented at the 2014 Annual Conference of Regional Science Association International.

Marie Howland (mhowland@umd.edu)

Marie has received a grant from campus to test a “global classroom” with the Higher School of Economics in Russia. In combination with Professor Leonid Limonov she will teach a joint economic development class that examines the job creation and innovation of industrial districts. The Russian students from the Higher Economics University will meet “on-line” with the University of Maryland students using Adobe Connect in the spring semester of 2015. She also continues as Co-Director with Dr. Scott Dempwolf for the U.S. Economic Development Administrations University Center, a five year grant to Urban Studies and Planning. A current project of the EDA University Center is the Community Economic Development Study for St. Mary’s County, Maryland. For more information about the Center, go to http://www.umddeauiversitycenter.com/. In addition, she is teaching Economics for Planners this fall while Professor Ding is on sabbatical. She continues to direct the Urban and Regional Planning Ph.D. program for the School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation.

Hiro Iseki (hieski@umd.edu)

Hiro, an Assistant Professor in URSP with a joint appointment with the National Center for Smart Growth (NCSG), has been active in several research projects in the past year. Hiro published with his colleagues at NCSG a paper in the journal Transport Policy, which uses a freight transportation model to examine the impacts of three different freight policies on the transportation network. In addition, the paper with the former master’s student Matt Tingstrom was recently published in the journal Computers, Environment and Urban Systems. This study proposes a new spatial analysis method to incorporate topography/terrain, street network, presence of intersections in the bike-shed analysis, using cyclists’ energy consumption to travel as travel impedance, rather than distance or time. (The journal publisher, Elsevier, provides a free access to the article by October 13, 2014.) Hiro presented this paper, as well as two other papers, in the 12th World Conference on Transportation Research (WCTR) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in July, 2013. He also attended the Transportation Research Board (TRB) 93rd Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., January, 2014, to present two papers. Hiro and his colleague at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, contributed to Encyclopedia of Transportation, Social Science and Policy, published by the SAGE Publications, writing two sections about “Rail Transit Systems, Worldwide” and “Parking Enforcement”.

In terms of on-going research, Hiro recently completed a study that examines the effect of gasoline price on transit ridership, using advanced econometric methods. The report of this study has been recently accepted by Mineta Transportation Institute and is forthcoming. He is also conducting research on: (1) the distribution of firms across the Washington DC-Maryland region in relation to Metro stations; (2) perceptions of transit service; and (3) a model to predict rail transit ridership in response to land use changes.

In the 20013-2014 school year, he continued to teach two transportation-related courses: (1) Transportation and Land use and (2) Urban Transportation Policy and Planning with emphasis on economics and finance. He also taught with his Ph.D. student, Robert Jones, a session on “Introduction to Quantitative Skills” in the URSP Bootcamp, which was provided for the first time to incoming students in the summer 2013 and had a huge success to help them prepare for regular course work in the URSP program.
Gerrit Knapp (gknaap@umd.edu)

Gerrit spent much of last year continuing projects begun in previous years. The book from the conference on planning for states and nation-states is still in progress but getting close to publication. The opportunity maps for the Baltimore metropolitan area are now being used as the foundation for the Baltimore Regional Sustainable Communities plan. The Purple Line Corridor Coalition continues its work helping to prepare for the $2.4 billion dollar investment in the Purple Line. Gerrit and his NCSG colleagues also spent considerable time last year helping to organize conferences and workshops. With help from Kim Ross, the “Beyond the Tracks” workshop attracted nearly 300 residents and business owners from across the Purple Line corridor to begin developing a community development strategy for the corridor.

URSP alumnus Jason Sartori lead another very successful Makeover Montgomery symposium in early May. And in June, with Uri Avin and others, Gerrit helped to organize the first central Maryland local government exchange that brought planners together from all parts of central Maryland. Gerrit and several of his NCSG colleagues also launched a new scenario planning initiative called PRESTO. This intensive modeling exercise is intended to offer new insights into how best to foster sustainability in the Baltimore-Washington Corridor. Gerrit is also expecting his fourth grandchild in his rapidly growing family.

Chao Liu (cliu8@umd.edu)

Chao developed a new course: URSP 688L Planning Technologies which was taught for the first time in the Spring 2013 semester. She collaborated with her colleague, Eli Knaap, to redesign this class by using blended learning techniques for the Fall 2014 class. This course provides an introduction of several basic technologies needed by planners, with a special focus on GIS, as well as concepts and knowledge to evaluate a variety of technologies (blogs, social-networking tools, video-sharing, on-line survey, etc.) in order to select the best approach for particular tasks in the whole planning process. The blended learning approach will offer MOOC-style on-line lectures, demonstrations, and problem-solving webinar discussions with peers and instructors.

In addition to her teaching experience, Chao is working on several projects. One is the Opportunity Collaborative project funded by the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC). The Opportunity Collaborative is the consortium charged with developing the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD) for the Baltimore region. The consortium is comprised of 26 members including local governments, state agencies, universities and nonprofit organizations. Over the process of developing the RPSD, opportunity mapping is a GIS-based tool to analyze a variety of opportunities at the neighborhood level that exist throughout the region. Understanding the disparities of the access to different opportunities is a crucial step to developing the RPSD and further helps the Opportunity Collaborative to connect housing, transportation and workforce development in the region. Chao wrote several project reports and research papers and presented the project results at many conferences.

Chao is also working on several projects for the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). She is collaborating with some colleagues to work on a policy report entitled “Current Conditions, Trends, and Driving Forces affecting Maryland’s Transportation System” that addresses the critical issues of transportation and economy in the state of Maryland. She also conducted a research paper for MDOT that addresses transit ridership improvement and Transit Oriented Development design in Maryland. This work provided policy guidance for the MDOT to promote transit usage. This research paper was submitted to Transportation Research Board (TRB) 2014 for publication review.

In addition, Chao has been conducting multiple research projects that explore the time budget allocation of individual travel behavior, transit performance evaluation, transportation energy consumption reduction, and ecological driving behavior.
Brent Beane
Brent has been working with the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County, MD as a Family Case Manager since January 2014. He has also taken up freelance technical writing and is currently preparing a TAP (Technical Assistance Panel) Report for ULI Washington on “Re-Envisioning Rhode Island Avenue” on redevelopment at and around the Rhode Island Avenue-Brentwood Metro Station in NE Washington, DC. The project’s panel featured 11 planning-related professionals from the DC Metropolitan Area who met with local stakeholders, brainstormed together and gave expert recommendations on the Rhode Island Ave NE Study Area. Additionally, Brent is coming upon three years as Vice President of Administration of the University of Maryland School of Architecture’s Alumni Chapter, MAPP+D.

David Boston, 2012
Senior Planner, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.
David is currently working with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in Prince George’s County as a Senior Planner. He’s also attending the University of Maryland again, as a Ph.D. student in Urban and Regional Planning and Design with research specializations in economic development, poverty alleviation, and gentrification. He and his wife, Caitlin, currently live in Frederick with their cat, Zelda, but are hoping to move to Prince George’s County some time in the very near future.

Aviva Brown, 2013
Aviva is currently working at Vantage Point Economic and Transportation Development Strategies as an Associate under the guidance of Jim Prost. Her work is focused on Transit Oriented Development economic analysis and provide assistance for real estate market analysis. She works on many different projects at a time, but some of her current efforts include developing a county-level economic development strategic plan and conducting economic analysis around potential light rail stops for the Red Line in Baltimore City. Aviva was recently elected as the Emerging Planners Group Chair for the Maryland American Planning Association Executive Committee. After serving as the student representative last year, she is very excited to have another opportunity to stay involved with the executive committee. In her position she is working to coordinate events and resources for all the new planning professionals in the area and looks forward to working with the Student Planning Association at UMD!

Jonathan Brown, 2003
Jonathan and Samantha recently returned to Richmond, VA. with their daughter Rose who was only 1 year old when they were a part of the Planning program. Rose is now going on 14! Prior to their return to Richmond Jonathan worked for the City of College Park. Now back in Richmond Jonathan has returned to consulting work.

Kellie (Bethke) Brown
I am still working as a long range planner in Arlington, VA. My current focus areas are updating the sector plan for Rosslyn and civic engagement in preparation for a future planning study on the Lee Highway commercial corridor. I have three kids, Sam (6) Ben (4), and Leah Rose (3 months)!

Samantha Brown, 2003
Assistant Vice President of Real Estate Development, Community Housing Partners (CHP), a non-profit affordable housing developer. Samantha has been with CHP for 9 years. She manages the development of affordable housing from acquisition through financing, construction, and project close out including both new construction and rehabilitation of existing multifamily properties. Samantha and Jonathan now reside in Richmond, VA with their daughter Rose who was only 1 year old when they were a part of the Planning program. Rose is now going on 14!

Mary Burkholder, 1986
Executive Vice President Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation.
Mary has worked in economic and community development for more than 25 years first as a local government planner, then a local economic development director, assistant secretary for two different State of Maryland agencies (Business and Economic Development and Housing and Community Development), senior vice president of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)and a consultant for ZHA, Inc. and her own firm, Mary Burkholder Consulting, LLC.

Robert Church, 1987
I graduated from UMCP in December, 1987. I became a licensed attorney in Maryland in 1994 with my first job being a law clerk on the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. I’ve since been admitted to practice in North Carolina and Washington DC. My volunteer work this year is assisting Catholic Charities in Baltimore with pro bono legal services. They have a program to help the state accommodate an influx of 2,800 undocumented children coming to the Maryland from Central America. Many of these children have been abandoned by their parents in Central America. I have experience with family law. Therefore, I am one of many volunteers assisting these children by reviewing their qualifications for special juvenile immigrant visas or asylum claims.
Kenya Covington, Ph.D.
Kenya is an Associate Professor in the Urban Studies and Planning Department at California State University, Northridge where she has been for nine years. Previously, she was director of the research department at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. in Washington, D.C. where she was responsible for the conceptualization and release of major research studies on black male unemployment, innovative legislation to boost homeownership among renters and the implementation of a health disparities grass root education campaign. Her current research examines the social and economic conditions of at risk populations and considers the effect of social and urban policy responses. Currently, she is documenting how Los Angeles responded to the 2007 housing crisis, focusing efforts by the city to stabilize neighborhoods after unprecedented foreclosures.

John Crumm
I work on a variety of public trails in Macomb County. I am also currently working on the Selfridge Air National Guard Base to secure the shoreline of the base (located on Lake St. Clair) into local public control. Eventually this base will be closed and I want to make sure that the shoreline is in public hands. There are many complications but I look forward to making sure that the public has access to Lake St. Clair.

Matthew Dolamore, 2014
National Network Coordinator, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Baltimore, MD.
I work with nonprofit partners to develop community-based services for migrants impacted by immigration detention, with emphasis on individuals and families seeking asylum in the US. I am involved in discussions on policy and program implementation with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Areas of focus include client housing models, community integration, and organizational development.

Chris Dickersin-Prokopp, 2009
Program Analyst. DC Department of Housing and Community Development.
Chris lives with his wife and son in DC, where he helps manage the city’s Housing Production Trust Fund and provides policy and program guidance to DHCD.

Jose Dory, 2008
I am currently in my second year of getting a second masters degree in Real Estate Development. I hope to graduate in Fall of 2015. I work full-time for the Maryland National Capital Parks & Planning Commission, where have been here since I graduating with my Master of Community Planning degree. I am a transportation analyst planner in the Functional Planning & Policy Division. I monitor, collect, and analyze all types of transportation data and present the information to the Montgomery County Planning Board and County Council in a biennial report that is called the Mobility Assessment Report. I also support various master plans in a transportation analysis capacity. (See Link) - http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/transportation/
I am a Baltimore City resident and serve on the Board of a neighborhood association with its aim to improve the quality of life by developing sustainable initiatives for residents in the community. I own an investment property in that neighborhood. I am licensed in Real Estate where, part-time, I serve as a buyer’s or selling agent to clients throughout the DC and Baltimore region. (See Link) http://www.rlathome.com/home/partner-associates/jose-dory-partner-associate/

Steven Gehrke (2011)
Doctoral Student, Portland State University.
My doctoral studies in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at PSU are focused on active transportation and its relationship with the built environment. Outside of academic research, my time is spent biking, drinking strong coffee, and traveling. This past summer, I visited the Netherlands, Singapore, and Myanmar with my wife, Olivia.

Rob Goodspeed
Rob is in his second year at the University of Michigan. He is continuing his research on new tools for planning, and is teaching courses in GIS, scenario planning, and collaborative planning. He bought a house with his wife Libby last summer in Ann Arbor.

Sarah Greenberg
Sarah recently relocated to Milwaukee, WI where her husband accepted a position on the faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Sarah currently serves as Director of Lending for the Northwest Side Community Development Corporation, an economic development agency committed to redeveloping the 30th Street Industrial Corridor by attracting advanced manufacturing back to the inner city. She also joined the board of Historic Milwaukee, Inc. and is working to promote creative placemaking all over the city.
Jaime Fearer, AICP, 2011
Planning and Policy Manager, California Walks.
Jaime joined California Walks in late June, and her focus is on multigenerational advocacy with the goal to positively influence policy and land use changes that will improve pedestrian safety and walkability across the City of San José and the greater South Bay. Before moving to California, Jaime worked with City of Greenbelt, Maryland, as a community planner where she focused on a number of projects, including working with Greenbelt’s Advisory Planning Board to complete the city’s Pedestrian and Bicyclist Master Plan, implementing Safe Routes to School infrastructure improvements at a local elementary school, and securing a grant to complete a citywide bike share feasibility study.

Danielle Felix, 2009
Asset Manager, US General Services Administration
I supervise the real property capital investment program for the Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Courthouses, and the Heating Operations and Transmission District (HOTD) located in the National Capital Region (NCR). I also assist with the development of the Capital Portfolio Plan for these agencies in order to reduce their footprint and save federal tax dollars on leases. I recently became a great aunt to Kylie Theresa Shaw, born on October 4, 2014.

Nicole M. Lacoste Folks, Esq, 2000
I have been practicing land use and real estate law in Baltimore City since 2001 and living in Fells Point in the City since 2003. My law practice is based in Baltimore but I’m currently working on several real estate development projects across the country and overseas. I am able to walk to work so that’s a nice way to start and end each workday. Weekends are spent often at our rural cabin just outside of Berkeley Springs, WV where I am consistently intrigued by the local land use issues discussed in the local paper. It is a very different set of issues as compared to urban Baltimore! I am also still teaching “Real Estate Negotiations and Drafting” at University of Maryland School of Law as an adjunct professor.

Alex Lee, 1992
Business Vice President, CH2M HILL, Indianapolis, IN
Transitioned out of the Washington D.C. area (twenty years), having worked on the Wilson Bridge Project, I-495 Express Lanes and Dulles Metrorail Expansion; relocated to Indiana last year; currently serving as VP for Indiana/Kentucky/Michigan for CH2M HILL and senior technologist for public involvement for large scale transportation for the Midwest.

Brooke (Taylor) Fossey
Brooke most recently worked as a Senior Planner at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro). She is currently the primary caregiver for her son and she and her family are in the midst of packing up their life after 11 years in DC and heading north to Boston. She’s excited to explore a new city by foot, bike, bus, and train!

Steven Gehrke, 2011
Doctoral Student, Portland State University. My doctoral studies in the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at PSU are focused on active transportation and its relationship with the built environment. Outside of academic research, my time is spent biking, drinking strong coffee, and traveling. This past summer, I visited the Netherlands, Singapore, and Myanmar with my wife, Olivia.

Peter Hadley, 2013
Financial Analyst, Jones Lang LaSalle.
Peter works for the Public Institutions team at real estate professional services firm, Jones Lang LaSalle, where he supports the Department of Defense’s privatized housing portfolio. He lives and works in DC and enjoys riding his bicycle all over town.

Ray Hayhurst, 2011
Urban Planner II, City of Alexandria Transit Services, Alexandria, VA
I work on planning and implementing new transit projects for the City of Alexandria. Projects include the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station, West End Transitway, and future improvements to the recently opened Crystal City-Potomac Yard Transitway on Route 1. I work with URSP alumni on a regular basis, as is true for every position I have had since graduating from the program.
Michael Helta
After 3 years of working for the MTA in the Capital Programming department, I was promoted mid-year to manage the Project Development department in the Office of Planning and Programming. Duties include the oversight of the conceptual design and public outreach for major agency capital expansion projects (MARC stations, transit corridors, facilities, etc), initiation and oversight of planning studies (BRT!, Bus On Shoulder!, etc), and whatever else we can think of that will help to position the agency to improve its services in the future. The Professional Association of Young Transportationists (PAYT), a trade organization I helped start in 2013, is officially becoming a YPT chapter this fall. Still living in and loving Baltimore. Still an O’s fan.

Cristina Huidobro
I moved back to Chile on April 2014 and started working for Santiago’s Municipality, which is the main one within the Santiago’s metropolitan area. The Mayor appointed me as Master Plan Director of the “Franklin Neighborhood”, an historic and commercial area close to downtown. This means that I am in charge of a comprehensive revitalization of the neighborhood that includes public space, infrastructure, economic development, historic preservation, transportation and community development. Actually, I’ve been using all the skills and tools that the UMD Program gave me. Also I am working with the private sector and the central government trying to bring investment and fresh resources to the area.

Alex Hutchinson, 2012
After a year working in the consulting world Alex Hutchinson took a job with The Baltimore Economic Development Corporation in May. In between jobs he toured the midwest with his brother visiting Minneapolis, Madison, Chicago, Cleveland, and Detroit. Alex says that the meals they had were enormous and was surprised by what the cities had in store. In addition to the aforementioned news he recently had an article featured in the May edition of Urban Land Magazine about immigrant investment programs in real estate.

Kate Judson
I’m still enjoying my work overseeing two stormwater management programs with the District Department of the Environment. However, my biggest news is that I’m pregnant with identical twin boys and due in early November. My husband, Paul, and I are excited to be doubling our family with these boys!

Aimee LaMontagne Baumiller, 2004
Senior Market Analyst, PNC Real Estate.
She celebrated her 10-year work anniversary in September and is enjoying Pittsburgh’s transformation and all it has to offer as the Most Livable City in the continental U.S. Her work at PNC entails analyzing individual commercial real estate transactions for the Bank as well as producing macroeconomic reports on the Multifamily sector. Her reports are published on www.pnc.com/realestate. Her 20-month old daughter, Greta, continues to make life more interesting and fulfilling (and exhausting!).

Alex Lee, 1992
Business Vice President, CH2M HILL, Indianapolis, IN. Transitioned out of the Washington D.C. area (twenty years), having worked on the Wilson Bridge Project, I-495 Express Lanes and Dulles Metrorail Expansion; relocated to Indiana last year; currently serving as VP for Indiana/Kentucky/Michigan for CH2M HILL and senior technologist for public involvement for large scale transportation for the Midwest.

Adam Lindquist, 2010
Project Manager, Waterfront Partnership of Baltimore, Baltimore, MD
Since graduating I have been working on watershed planning in Baltimore’s Inner Harbor. I am the Project Manager of the Healthy Harbor Initiative, which aims to make the Harbor swimmable and fishable by 2020. Some of the projects that I have had the good fortune to be involved with include the installation of 2,000 square feet of floating wetlands, working with volunteers to grow over 150,000 oysters in urban waterways, and the construction and installation of a solar-powered water trash interceptor. The Water Wheel project has received national attention and is seen as a realistic solution to removing plastics and other floating debris from the world’s oceans. I am also part of a team that works with communities, environmental nonprofits, and Baltimore City government to improve the quality of stormwater runoff coming from our urban environment through better watershed planning.

Patrick Maier
Graduated in 1975. I'm the Executive Director of the Innovative Housing Institute (IHI) www.inhousing.org, a non-profit affordable housing organization that specializes in inclusive land use strategies. We are currently finishing up the Baltimore Regional Housing plan, partnering with UMD's Center for Smart Growth, BAE Urban Economics and the University of Baltimore. He is also assisting Chicago's Department of Planning and Development in revamping their Affordable Requirements Ordinance, which has produced substantial "fees in lieu" of affordable housing development but little on-site housing. After spending 27 years in various housing roles working for Montgomery County, my wife Kathleen and I moved our empty nest to Federal Hill in Baltimore, and were charmed by Charm City. We now live in Bolton Hill, and have been
re-nested by two of our children, Martin and Elizabeth. Martin’s at UMD’s School of Nursing and Elizabeth is starting her new life as a married person with her husband, Rob Leach who is from Wales. They are Baltimore believers and are buying and fixing up some of the elegant homes that have fallen on hard times in nearby Reservoir Hill. We’re keeping it interesting and keeping it urban!

Sunni Massey, 2005
Sunni is a Federal Program Officer for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the U.S. Department of Commerce. Her husband and fellow alum, Brian Dylong (2005), is an Assistant Vice President in the FHA Multifamily Underwriting Department at Capital One Multifamily Finance. They continue to live in Hyattsville, MD with their dog, NIMBY, just a stone’s throw from the Architecture Building.

Rachel (Fitzgerald) McNamara, 2007
Outdoor Recreation Planner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. As a project manager and technical expert, Rachel works on recreation, land use, and cultural resource issues at federally-licensed hydroelectric projects in the southeast. She and her husband, Doug, live in Hyattsville with daughter, Ella, and a new addition on the way in April.

Ingrid Mendez
Ingrid is currently principal of Urban Concepts, a multidisciplinary firm based in the Washington DC Metro. Urban Concepts offers Professional Services in all facets of Business, Urban & Regional Planning, Historic Preservation, Building and Engineering Industry (Engineering and Environmental Services, Structural and Building Inspections, Real Estate, Property Management, MGMT Consulting, and International Deployments and Operations). Ingrid established Urban Concepts in 1990, while she was working on her MBA, her clients include national and international private and government entities. You are welcome to browse Urban Concepts: http://a-1urbanconcepts.com

Megan Moriarty, MCP 2008
I own & operate the Fenton Street Market, a weekly craft market in downtown Silver Spring. I've expanded FSM to include: a vintage market in Takoma Park; an alternative bridal show for local, handmade vendors; various pop up markets around Silver Spring; and an active vendor network practicing real-time micro business development. I'm working with friends on a local blog: Silver Spring Inc. and spend my free time napping & buying presents for my nieces & nephew.

Julie (Mirvis) Morris, AICP, 2005
Facilities Planner, Montgomery County Public Schools. Julie has been with MCPS for the past five years and is currently working on planning a new school in Rockville and a classroom addition at Kensington-Parkwood Elementary School. With so much enrollment growth she's keeping busy projecting for relocatable classrooms and studying options for adding permanent capacity. An upcoming project she is most excited about is the revitalization/expansion of her own neighborhood's elementary school. In her free time, she writes a blog and is working on a thriller novel with a prison architect protagonist. She lives with her husband and son in Silver Spring.

Marianne Navarro
I am continuing my work implementing the Mayor’s Anchor Institution initiative, an economic and community development strategy focused on improving quality of life, addressing public safety issues, and promoting economic inclusion in Baltimore’s neighborhoods. I am also serving on the Mayor’s Grow Baltimore Advisory Task Force. I’m also excited to report that in 2014 I received my AICP certification and was recently awarded a Daily Record Leading Women award for Maryland professionals under 40 years old. My husband John and I are very busy raising our two daughters, Loren (almost 4) and Farah(2) in Baltimore City’s Locust Point community.

Mark Noll, 2012
Planning Analyst. Mayor’s Innovation Delivery Team, Louisville, KY. He is working for Louisville Metro Government as a Project Manager for the Innovation Delivery Team. He is working to implement several new recycling programs that are reducing the amount of waste filling up area landfills. Mark also serves on the Board of Directors for Bicycling for Louisville, a non-profit organization working to make biking safe, convenient, and accessible for everyone in the city. Beyond working to complete a new strategic plan for the organization, he is coordinating several neighborhood history rides with local historians and community leaders.

Sean O’Neill
I moved to Wilmington, DE in the Fall of 2012. Since then I have worked as a Real Estate Analyst for a consulting company before joining McCormick Taylor as an Environmental Planner in November 2013. This month I left McCormick Taylor and I am currently in the process of deciding between 2 new exciting positions, both with lots of potential. Most importantly, my wife have birth to our daughter Norah Gertrude O’Neill
Oluseyi Olugbenle, 2014
As a recent graduate, Oluseyi is excited to work as a Planner at Parsons Brinckerhoff in Washington, D.C. She is currently working on projects including the South Capitol Street Corridor Project, Virginia Avenue Tunnel, BWI Railroad Station, among others. My husband and our energetic and beautiful newborn live in Howard County, Maryland. In my spare time (although nonexistent nowadays), I love to bake, travel and plan events of any kind!

Polly Peterson
I am living in Bowling Green, OH and enjoying being able to walk/bike to most of my daily errands. My work consists mainly of teaching part-time in the Department of Environment and Sustainability at Bowling Green SU and doing community/sustainability planning as a consultant (Infinitely Green Consulting). I am currently on a team that is formulating an Area Wide Plan for an industrial brownfield site and adjacent struggling neighborhood in Toledo, OH. Other involvements include the Northwest Ohio Food Council steering committee (our focus is on promoting our local food economy) and the Toledo Lucas County Sustainability Commission. In the near future, I will be offering online coursework in introductory environmental and sustainability studies, as well as online/in-person classes in permaculture techniques.

Graham Petto, AICP, 2011
Research Project Coordinator, Alan M. Voorhees Transportation Center.
In June 2014, I left the Maryland Department of Planning. I have relocated from Baltimore, MD to New Jersey for a position with VTC at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University. I am working to support a variety of research projects on transit-oriented development and paratransit for NJ Transit and NJ Dept. of Transportation.

Meghan Powell, 2008.
Rail and Transit, Task Manager, Parsons, Washington DC.
After working at Jacobs for 12 years, Meghan recently took a new position as task manager for Parsons. She is part of Parsons Rail and Transit Systems group and is working on a general architecture and engineering contract for WMATA. Under this project, Meghan is managing the development of a flood emergency response plan, as well as inspection work for the eventual replacement of WMATA's faregates. She also has past experience in all stages of rail and transit projects including feasibility studies, planning and final design. Meghan lives in Silver Spring, MD with her two boys.

Jessica Reynolds 2010
I have been working with the Maryland Dept. of Business and Economic Development since 2011 in the Office of International Investment and Trade. I am currently responsible for attracting investment and promoting exports in Africa and India. I have been working on my coursework for the Economic Developer Certification (CEcD) and I hope to take the test in the next year or so. I continue to serve on the Rockville Historic District Commission, and was re-appointed earlier this year for another 3 year term. In March of this year, Peerless Rockville, a non-profit focused on historic preservation in Rockville, asked me to give a presentation on the neighborhood of Rockcrest as part of their “Modern Living in a Modern City” series, and it was well attended by city leadership and residents. My husband and I also welcomed our second child, a daughter, this past August.

Dan Rosen
Dan continues to fulfill the Maryland Department of Planning’s role in the state’s land preservation efforts: the Rural Legacy program, Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, certification of county land preservation programs, state and local Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plans, etc. From this foundation he became involved in issues related to the food system; he was editor and lead author of Planning for the Food System, the 28th volume of MDP’s “Models and Guidelines” series.
His duties also include working with the Patuxent River Commission and on state efforts to implement the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Since this is the centennial of the start of World War One, Dan's interest in that conflict and its literature inspired him to write a paper called “Two Jewish Poets of The Great War: Siegfried Sassoon and Isaac Rosenberg,” which he hopes to present to his congregation.

Jennifer Mizroch Rosenberg, 1992
Meetings Manager, Burk & Associates, Inc.
I am living in Vienna, VA with my husband and two sets of twins ages 10 and 7. I have been working for an association management company for the past 2 1/2 years managing scientific conference for various associations all around the world. I have been planning conferences for the past 18 years. In my free time in enjoy photography, running and biking.
ALUMNI UPDATES

Carrie Sanders, 2005
Acting Division Chief, Transportation Planning Division, City of Alexandria
Carrie has worked for over four years with the City of Alexandria focusing on non-motorized transportation, and is currently serving as Acting Division Chief for the Transportation Planning Division, which includes long range transportation planning, parking management, Complete Streets, and Transportation Demand Management. Carrie lives in Montgomery County with her husband Jesse and their children Anna (6), Claire (4) and Ben (2).

Alyssa Seibert
I am currently working for Relay Foods in Washington D.C. as the Storefront and Perimeter Sales Lead. Relay Foods is the region’s largest online farmer’s market and grocery store aiming to make shopping for quality, healthy, and sustainable groceries simple and easy.

James Spatz, 2014
After a couple of stints in Nicaragua during the summer, I have begun working as an Urban Planner/Zoning Officer for the City of Harrisburg, PA. I am helping to administer the City’s new Zoning Code and working with my boss to begin the Comprehensive Planning process in Harrisburg.

Steve Stahley, MCP/UMAB 1989
Steve currently works at the Mental Health Association of Maryland and serves as the Deputy Director of the Consumer Quality Team (CQT). The CQT visits programs that are funded by Maryland’s Public Mental Health System and interviews adults and youth who are receiving services. The information derived from the qualitative interviews is shared with the programs and with officials of the Maryland Behavioral Health Administration (BHA). Over the seven years of its existence, the CQT has developed into a strong feedback loop for those being served in the State Hospitals and residential and day mental health programs across the state. Steve and his family live in Westminster, Maryland.

Deborah Sward, 2011
Environmental Planner and GIS Manager. Straughan Environmental, Inc.
As a consultant planner, Deborah serves clients in the government and commercial sectors on a range of environmental planning and sustainability initiatives. Her primary responsibility is ensuring that major infrastructure projects meet requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act and Civil Rights Act by evaluating the socioeconomic and environmental impacts of different design scenarios. She has authored impact analyses for transportation, land development, and sewer/storm water projects throughout the Baltimore-Washington area. Additionally, she helps clients pursue LEED certification for building design and construction.

Matthew Texler, 2011
Managing Director, Meridian Capital Group, New York, NY
After a successful time at UMD focused on economic development and housing, I’ve been back in the finance world, but this time around, focused solely on affordable housing. I have financed approximately $3 billion in affordable housing, mostly in Harlem and The Bronx, NY with an emphasis on Section 8 Project-Based HUD contracts and other workforce housing projects. Of particular note was the recent recapitalization of the 42-building, TriBoro Portfolio, which had fallen into disrepair by the previous (slumlord) management company. I structured a new $146 million mortgage that included $10 million of funds set aside to repair deferred maintenance and renovate apartments, and cure approximately 3,500 building violations. In concert with the Attorney General of New York, we were able to help preserve 1,600 affordable housing units, and satisfy the needs of several community housing groups.

Louis Thomas, 2012
Doctoral Student, MIT. Lou Thomas finished his second year of the PhD program at MIT’s Department of Urban Studies and Planning, which means that at the age of 36 he is finally done taking classes. He aims to take his qualifying exams this fall, with a first field in City Design & Development, and a second field in Mediated Placemaking - investigating the political economy of how places are both produced and appropriated. In the spring, his goal is to submit a dissertation proposal, which may focus on changing and contested notions of the urban environment as a place for childrearing. This July he presented his paper “Baltimore’s Oldtown Mall: walking on sunshine or the ghost of an everyday neighborhood” at the International Planning History Society Conference in St. Augustine, FL.

More importantly, his daughter Nettie Maude is about to turn two in October, and she is the sweetest, smartest child. With his wife Julie and dog Belafonte, they live in a wonderful cohousing community in Jamaica Plain, Boston; which almost makes up for having to live in cold, cold New England. If you are ever in the area, please don’t hesitate to look them up. Luckily, they make it back to the mid-Atlantic frequently for Julie to check-in with her home office at the US Department of Transportation and to visit family in Baltimore.
Renee Thompson, 2009  
MCP, Land Use and Environmental Planning Geographer, US Geological Survey, Chesapeake Bay Program Office.  
Working as a GIS Analyst to model infill and redevelopment patterns and potential in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed; maintaining geospatial datasets related to protected lands; and serving as Coordinator of the Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation team tasked with maintaining healthy waters and watersheds at optimal levels. These areas are important for their contribution to sustaining local social, economic and environmental benefits and contribute to the achievement of Chesapeake Bay Agreement goals. Currently Renee is on maternity leave caring for her newly born daughter Cordelia. She is enjoying time with her now family of four including her almost 5 year old son and husband.

Amber Turnquest  
Amber has been working as the Planning & Zoning and Floodplain Administrator for Ward County, ND. She serves as a member of the Technical Committee for the Minot Air Force Base Joint Land Use Study, the Steering Committee for Vision West ND, and as an adviser to the Ward County Planning Commission. She was on the development team that won a 2014 Special Achievement in GIS Award from ESRI for a parcel viewer and flood planning viewer designed to provide essential information to the community. Amber lives with her wife in Minot, ND where it is winter 8 months of the year.

Gregory Vernon, 2010  
Fire/Life Safety Liaison Officer, Office of Emergency Management, WMATA.  
Gregory is responsible for the maintenance and enhancements of several emergency preparedness plans, emergency operations plans, and procedures for the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). Over the past year, Gregory participated in the development of several emergency training exercises, has continuously monitored for severe weather affecting the Washington, DC region and has enriched OEM’s geospatial capabilities.

Michael Weinberger  
I am living in Washington, DC in the NoMa neighborhood, home to DC’s first Cycletrack. I have been a transit planner at Foursquare Integrated Transportation Planning, based in Rockville, MD, for a year and a half. My main role is assisting the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Transportation Planning Board (COG/TPB) in conducting grant management of 16 projects being implemented by six separate agencies, all conducted under a regional $58.8 million TIGER grant. Primary responsibilities include day-to-day coordination of all TIGER grant management activities, including providing technical assistance to the six grant sub-recipients (WMATA, DDOT, MTA, Maryland SHA, City of Alexandria and PRTC). Additionally, I have supported the development of several public outreach programs in Washington, DC, Baltimore, MD and Fairfax, VA in an effort to improve regional bus planning and operations.

Chad Williams  
Chad has spent the last 12 years working for the Prince George’s County Planning Department, dedicating much of this time to College Park and the University of Maryland as the community planner for the area. He has recently assumed the project manager role for the comprehensive update of the county’s zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations and hopes to usher in a 21st century ordinance that supports economic growth and transit-oriented development among other key goals. Chad and his wife live in Bowie, Maryland.

Tiffany C. Williams, 2008  
Executive Director, Teach For America-Detroit  
Tiffany is working to impact the social, economic, and education landscape in her hometown of Detroit. In addition to leading the TFA region in Michigan she is active in the community, sits on a number of boards, and serves as the president and co-founder of Advancing Community Through Service (A.C.T.S) not-for-profit. Because of her contributions to the Detroit community, The Michigan Chronicle recently named her to the 2014 40 under 40 class. Tiffany is recently engaged to Thomas Taylor, sergeant with the Detroit Police Department, and is excited about the life they will build together. She is happy to be home with her family serving the city she loves.

Peter Witte  
Pete is now a writer of fiction enrolled in the MFA program at the University of Maryland. He is also the primary caregiver for his two preschool-aged children. His family just moved to the Calvert Hills community in College Park, Maryland, where he spends large sums of time scoping out birds and thinking nostalgic thoughts on walks along the Trolley Trail.

Megan Zadecky  
For almost 7 years, I have been working for Booz Allen Hamilton providing environmental policy and program management support to Department of Defense clients. My family (husband and two sons) and I relocated “home” to Pittsburgh almost two years ago (January 2013). I’m enjoying all that Pittsburgh has to offer and getting involved in my local community. I was recently appointed to the Mt. Lebanon Parks Advisory Board and am involved with addressing issues and making recommendations pertaining to the municipalities parks and open spaces.