Director’s Letter

Thanks to all of you for making the 50th anniversary year of Urban Studies at UWM so memorable. Our goals for the year were to raise the profile of Urban Studies, reconnect with our alumni, and celebrate 50 years of cutting-edge urban research at UWM.

We started the year with a campus-wide Urban Summit which brought together faculty and staff from across the university whose research and teaching focus on urban issues. The summit was the start of a new urban network on campus that could lead to research collaborations and community partnerships. Over 50 faculty attended from colleges and schools including Peck School of Arts, Health Sciences, Architecture and Urban Planning, Social Work, Education, Public Health, and, of course, Letters & Science. At the end of the summit, there was a clear call from faculty that the campus needs to reinvest in our commitment to the city and renew the “Milwaukee Idea.”

We capped off the year with a two-day celebration in April. I am grateful to all of the alumni, faculty and former faculty who made it back to Milwaukee for our 50th anniversary weekend. Former USP faculty Greg Squires and Judith Kenny graced the opening panel session “City as Solution: Building the New Urban Agenda,” along with alumni Jeff Eagan (MS ’78), Pam Fendt (MS ’96), and Bill Tisdale (MS ’89). We socialized at the new Brewhouse, and enjoyed a day-long symposium and student poster session. We even started an oral history project by making video recordings of alumni and faculty. My personal highlight was having the Riverside University High School drum line play before our keynote speaker Bruce Western took the stage.

I also owe a special debt of gratitude to Jamie Harris and Carrie Beranek for all of their work over the past year. Many of our graduate students also lent a hand, particularly Gestina Sewell (an alumna now, MS ’14), Katie Witz, and Maddy Riordan. We had more events and public programs than we ever have, and it is probably good that you only turn 50 once! I am looking forward to an exciting, but maybe slightly less exciting, 51st year for USP.

Jasmine Alinder
Director, Urban Studies Programs

URBAN STUDIES TURNED 50!

Over the last academic year, Urban Studies celebrated its 50th (1963/64 - 2013/14) anniversary with a series of campus and community events that culminated with the Spring Forum and Alumni Reunion held the weekend of April 25-26. We hope many of you were able to attend some or all of our events over the year. Pages 5-10 are a recap of our year of celebration.
Program News from the Associate Director

This fall semester we welcome seven new Master’s students and six new PhD students, and our undergraduate major and certificate program continue to grow with 14 new declarations last year. Please join me in congratulating our Urban Studies 2013-2014 grads:

Undergraduate Majors (BA): Alicia Anderson (see spotlight), Rebecca Arnold, Avery Browning, Megan Carlson, Joseph Donohue, Samantha Fleischman, Alex Hagler, David Johnson, Michael Hill, Andrew Strang, Samuel Tooke, Blake Van Egeren, Michael Zhou

Certificate Program: Jessica Boll, Lindsey Levasseur

Master of Science (MS):
Nelida Cortes (advisor: Rob Smith) – “A Review of the Effectiveness of Increased Judicial Intervention and Required Attendance at Batterer Intervention Programming in Milwaukee County Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Cases: Preliminary Findings”
Neal Johnson (advisor: Linda McCarthy) – “The (Rail)Road Not Traveled: The Failure of the KRM Commuter Rail Proposal in Greater Milwaukee, WI”
Gestina Sewell (see spotlight) (advisor: Don Green) – “Milwaukee, WI: ‘The Harvard of Pimp Schools’?”

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD):
Jennifer Fink (Advisor: Doug Ihrke) - “Assessing the Impact of an Incentivized Employee Wellness Program on Participation and Weight”
George Papakis (see spotlight) (advisor: Joe Rodriguez) – “The Elliniko Airport: Contested Politics and the Production of Urban Space in Athens, 1938-2014”

Urban Studies Abroad

Urban Studies Major Ben Schroeder Checks in from Germany

Grüße aus Deutschland!

Last semester, I was fortunate enough to study at Goethe-Universität in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, through the Hessen-Wisconsin exchange program. I chose Frankfurt because it complements my Urban Studies and German majors well.

I took a number of language classes to improve my German language skills, as well as one course about the history and development of the Frankfurt Rhine-Main metropolitan region.

In addition to exploring this beautiful (and frankly, underrated) city, I also traveled to Cologne and Berlin, with trips to cities in the Benelux region planned for the future.

Being here has only strengthened my desire to pursue an internationally-focused career using my Urban Studies background. Choosing to study abroad has already opened many doors for me both personally and professionally, and I highly recommend it to any of my fellow USP undergraduates.
We are Pleased to Announce the 2014 Scott Greer Award Winners

Undergraduate Awards
Best Poster: Louis Glotfelty (USP Major, on left)  
Title: “Regionalism: Twin Cities vs Milwaukee”
Honorable Mention: Michael Zhou (USP Major, on right)  
Title: “Gentrification in Shanghai”

Graduate Awards
Best Doctoral Poster: Ashkan Rezvani Naraghi (on right) – Title: “Constructing the Virtual and Material Public Spaces: The Cases of ‘We are All Khaled Said’ Facebook Page and Tahrir Square during Egypt 2011 Revolution”
Best Master’s Poster: Mehdi Nejatbakhsh (on left) – Title: “Rising Cosmopolitanism among the New Generations: Growing Up with Global Ties”

Thanks to Margaret Wilder and the Urban Affairs Association (UAA) for providing award winners with a monetary prize and free registration at next year’s UAA conference in Miami.

Student Conference Paper Presentations
Josh Lang presented “Place Matters: Differences in Depression and Intention to Place Among Urban and Rural Caregivers” at the Gerontological Society of America Annual Conference in San Diego, November 20-24, 2013.
Meghan McDonald presented “Tackling the Discursive and Procedural Challenges to Meaningful Change at a Neighborhood Grocery Co-op” at the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology, October 2013 Annual Meeting in Portland.
Fred Schnook presented “Creative Class Theory, Methodology and Policy Implications” at The Idea of Creative City and the Urban Policy Debate conference in Krakow, Poland, October 17-18, 2013.

Congratulations

USP PhD Candidate Ashkan Rezvani Naraghi (pictured above) has received a IGHERT fellowship from the UWM Center for 21st Century Studies for the 2014-15 academic year. The Integrative Graduate Humanities Education and Research Training fellowship brings together collaborators to undertake jointly mentored, international research. UWM is one of only four national institutions in the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes which received this funding through the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Congratulations to graduate student Maddy Riordan and family on the birth of Penelope Lou Riordan Rivas, born November 13, 2013, at 6:54 p.m. (8 pounds, 14 ounces and 21 inches long).
Alumni Spotlight

In Their Own Words

Alicia Anderson, BA ’14  Double Major: Urban Studies & Sociology

The Urban Studies program here at UWM has been nothing but a positive experience. The multidisciplinary approach is what made the program so attractive, and I now have a broader sense of ways to approach issues in our fast urbanizing world.

The courses in the program helped me figure out what I wanted to do after graduation. Prior to declaring a double major in Urban Studies, I had no idea how it related to everyday life. USP 150 and USP 489 have been groundbreaking courses for me. I had the opportunity to work with Layton Boulevard West Neighbors (LBWN) for my final year where I put research skills acquired from urban studies courses to use. I also gained an interest in sustainable housing for urban communities. I found a home not only in the Urban Studies program, but also in non-profit organizations.

I recently accepted a research position at a company where I am putting skills acquired from both the USP program and my internship at LBWN to use. Future plans involve enrolling in the Urban Studies graduate program concurrently with the GIS certificate program while focusing on economic development and housing. The skills that I have gained while enrolled in the undergraduate program will be great tools in anything that I choose to do in the future.

Gestina Sewell, MS ’14

The Urban Studies Programs for me has been an amazing experience. USP has opened my eyes to my own privileges, and it also has impassioned me to serve my community here in Milwaukee. I have learned about the disadvantages that so many face because of socio-economic factors that contribute to low living standards in cities across the nation, which led me to study the issue of human trafficking in Milwaukee. Through my research, my independent data collection of human trafficking in general, and the level of trafficking via prostitution in Milwaukee specifically, I have garnered a greater sense of urgency in the need to teach our youth that there are more options for them than they may realize. With the average age of trafficking victims at 13 in Milwaukee, our youth are being targeted and being placed on a path of violence and early death. It is through education and other such measures that we can arm our youth; thus, I am happy to announce that I will be teaching in the Milwaukee Public School system in the fall of 2014.

George Papakis, PhD ’14

From the outset, I truly enjoyed my time in the Urban Studies Program. One of the greatest benefits was that the program allowed me to choose from a wide variety of disciplinary and methodological approaches. This gave me the opportunity to accommodate and develop my specific research interests, and at the same time, gain a broader knowledge of various topics. The faculty in USP have been extraordinarily helpful and kind, and even though my research interests did not always coincide with their own, they encouraged me to pursue my goals and provided me with all the necessary support and precious advice. My advisors have granted me a great deal of freedom for taking intellectual risks, and they have been very supportive throughout the dissertation process. In my dissertation I trace the historical forces that conditioned the dearth of public spaces in Athens, Greece, and through the case study of the city’s first civilian airport, examine the current redevelopment plans of Athens’ largest remaining open space as part of a wider process of urban transformation.
City as Solution: Building the New Urban Agenda
The Urban Studies 50th Anniversary Recap of Events

Although in a typical year we have a full slate of public programming, this year we held many more events, both big and small, and tied them into our “City as Solution: Building the New Urban Agenda” theme. We hope you were able to make it to some events during our 50th celebration year. Below is a recap of some of the most memorable.

The 2013-14 year started off with the Urban Summit held in October at the new Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health. The event, focused primarily on the campus community, was designed to take stock of urban scholarship at UWM and to strategize how to recommit UWM to an urban focus in order to build relationships across schools and departments around urban research projects and campus-community partnerships. We had a great turnout and desire to grow this into something larger. Over 50 participants attended the Summit from departments and programs as diverse as Allied Health Sciences to Theatre. A big thank you to Dean Magda Peck, Associate Dean James Moyer, Jr., Laurie Marks and the Center for Community Based Learning, Leadership, and Research, and Rob Smith and Cultures and Communities for their participation and assistance organizing this event.
USP Goes to the Movies

Urban themes are often embodied in the visual arts, representing a powerful medium as witnessed by HBO’s famed series *The Wire*, on which our own Marc Levine teaches a class, or recent documentaries such as *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth* or *Detropia*. In that spirit, USP was a community partner for the Milwaukee Film Festival and helped to sponsor the documentary film *Fatal Assistance*, which examines the largely failed reconstruction efforts after the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Scholar Mark Schuller from Northern Illinois University gave a talk back and also spoke with USP 250 students.

Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit

On November 14th, USP held the annual Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit with the title: “Life After Vouchers: Expansion, Accountability and Outcomes.”

We had a full house at the Hefter Center for our panel discussion on current research on voucher schools. The distinguished panel included:

- **Dr. Deven Carlson**, Assistant Professor, Political Science, University of Oklahoma
- **Dr. Lora Warner**, Assistant Professor, Director of the Center for Public Affairs, UW-Green Bay
- **Dr. Mike Ford** (PhD ‘13), Assistant Professor, Public Administration, UW-Oshkosh and USP alumnus

The panel discussion was moderated by Alan Borsuk, Senior Fellow in Law and Public Policy, Marquette University Law School and columnist with the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. The event was televised by Wisconsin Eye, and also filmed by our UWM video production. The entire event or segments can be viewed at: http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/urbanstudies/mkesummit/index.cfm
April 25th Gala Reception at the Brewhouse Inn

Over 125 current students, faculty, and alumni turned out for cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in the newly renovated (and repurposed) Pabst Brewery (now the Brewhouse Inn and Suites pictured above) for the Spring Forum and Alumni Reunion Weekend, April 25-26, 2014. Pictured top right: USP Emeritus Professor Don Noel with his wife, Dr. Sally O’Connor and USP Alumna (PhD ’96), and USP Associate Director Jamie Harris and USP alumnus (PhD ‘2005).

USP Hosts MPTV’s 4th Street Forum

Urban Studies hosted MPTV’s “4th St. Forum” television program by turning the UWM Fireside Lounge into a TV studio.

The episode was titled after the theme from our 50th celebration – “City as Solution: Building the New Urban Agenda” – and panelists included Mayor Tom Barrett and USP Director Jasmine Alinder as well as Tony Shields, Executive Director of the United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee (UNCOM) and Linda Keane, Regenerative Architect, Studio 1032, Professor, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. The program was moderated by Marcus White, himself an Urban Studies alumnus and VP for Community Partnerships at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation. See the entire broadcast at http://www.mptv.org/shows/fourth_street_forum/
Former USP Faculty Send Their Well Wishes

Even though it has been 16 years since I left UWM, my time at USP has remained very significant to me both professionally and personally. Coordinating the Ph.D. program was my first significant administrative experience; at the time I joined it, Marc Levine was also relatively new as Coordinator of the MS program – and we both “cut our administrative teeth” with the legendary Frank Cassell (who was then the Director of the program). Oh, the stories that Marc and I could tell.

Mostly, however, USP remains special because of all the great faculty and students who have been affiliated with it. Marc and I obviously worked very closely together for years and remain good friends. In what was then the new curriculum in the merged program, Bud Weare and I co-taught a course that we called ‘Thinking Historically, Thinking Sociologically;” some of the students’ proposals wound up as dissertations and even books. What a privilege it was to work with them. Both the doctoral students and I survived USP 982 (Advanced Stats) – and some still talk to me :).

I’m sorry that I could not be there with you today to celebrate USP’s 50th anniversary. I leave you with what a friend told me when I hit that ripe age: “The second 50 are easier!”

John F. Zipp
Senior Associate Dean
Professor of Sociology
Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences
The University of Akron

I am sorry that I cannot attend the 50th reunion event this weekend. I was a faculty member in the Urban Affairs Department from 1978-1984. I enjoyed my time at UWM in the Urban Affairs department very much. I was relatively young when I began my academic career there in 1978. I had not yet turned 27. I was a little concerned at the time that it might be difficult because most of the Master’s students were about my age and a number were older. The students were very welcoming to me and I enjoyed teaching there very much. The Master’s students that I taught were very bright and dedicated. They enriched classroom discussions of urban policy issues by the perspectives they brought from their work experience. I very much appreciated the mentorship provided by Dick Bingham, Harold Rose, and Michael Barndt in my early career at UWM. I am particularly thankful to Michael. He used to call me a “technocrat” because of the strong quantitative focus of my research. He encouraged me not to forget the practical policy implications. While he would still probably call me a technocrat today, his advice was clearly on the mark. I tell students in the methods classes that I teach the same thing now.

I left UWM in December 1984 to move to Boston, MA because my wife accepted a job there. After leaving UWM, the focus of my research over the last 30 years has changed from urban and regional economics to health services research and aging studies. However, I still have a strong interest in the geographic aspects of health and aging that stems from past urban research focus.

While my wife and I don’t miss some of the extreme cold winters we experienced in Milwaukee, we both still have very fond memories of our time there and the people we got to know there. Unfortunately we can’t visit with you this coming weekend, but I wanted to congratulate both current and former faculty and students on the success of Urban Studies at UWM. Its success is very much attributable to the great dedication and efforts of both its students and faculty throughout the 50 years. I am pleased to have had the opportunity to play a very small part of the history you are celebrating later this week.

With warm regards,

Frank Porell
Professor, Department of Gerontology,
McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies
University of Massachusetts Boston
50th Anniversary Spring Forum and Alumni Reunion

The culmination of the 50th year of events was the day-long Symposium on Saturday, April 26. Over 225 people attended.

Former USP Directors and Faculty: (From left) Amanda Seligman, Marc Levine, Jasmine Alinder, Michael Barndt, Joe Rodriguez, Judith Kenny, and Harold Rose (seated).

Former USP Professor Greg Squires and current USP Professor William Vélez at “Urban Inequality: Segregation, Race and Cities.”

Dr. Eric Gass, a USP alumnus who is the Director of Public Health Research and Policy at the City of Milwaukee Health Dept. presented a proclamation from the City of Milwaukee to USP, marking April 26, 2014 Urban Studies Day. Then-Chancellor Mike Lovell and USP Director Jasmine Alinder (left of podium) accepted the proclamation.

Barry Lovelace, MS ’65, and Walter Walchuk, MS ’65, both from the first cohort, 1963-64, attended the Spring Forum and Alumni Reunion.

2014-15 Events – Save the Date

Although we don’t plan to top last year, we already have a full set of events planned for this year (our 51st) and hope you can attend.

- **The Fall Social & Lecture** will be held October 2, 2014 at the UWM Golda Meir library at 4pm and feature **Dr. Michael Leo Owens**, the board chair of Urban Affairs Association and Professor of Political Science at Emory University. The title of his talk is: “‘Deviant’ Democrats in the City: Community Organizing By, With, and For Decarcerated Citizens.”

- **Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit** will be held on November 20th at the UWM Hefter Center. This year’s theme, Home and Garden, will examine relationships between housing and urban agriculture and will partner with Walnut Way Conservation Corp.

**SAVE THE DATE: Urban Studies Spring Forum** will be held Saturday, April 18th at the Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health. Stay tuned for more details.
Faculty News

Urban Studies and History professor Margo Anderson was promoted to Distinguished Professor.

Marc Levine discussed the reasons behind poor job creation under Governor Walker’s tenure on the Sunday, May 25th episode of “UpFront” with Mike Gousha on Milwaukee’s WISN Channel 12 News Program.

USP faculty Jenna Loyd, Anne Bonds, and Rob Smith received a UWM Center for 21st Century Studies Transdisciplinary Challenge grant (along with two other colleagues) for “Transforming Justice: Rethinking the Politics of Security, Mass Incarceration, and Community Health.” The grant is $75,000 in total funding over one year.


Linda McCarthy was appointed to a Visiting Professorship in the School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy at University College Dublin. (We are also working with UCD on a graduate exchange program so stay tuned for more information about that in the near future.)

Urban Studies is Growing - 9 New Faculty Affiliations

Over the last year, Urban Studies significantly expanded both the number of affiliated faculty as well as the number of disciplines and colleges that make up our interdisciplinary program.

In addition to Letters and Science, faculty are now drawn from four other colleges/schools:

- Criminal Justice in the Helen Bader School of School of Social Welfare
- Public Health Policy & Administration in the Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health
- Educational Policy and Community Studies in the School of Education
- School of Architecture and Urban Planning

In total, nine new faculty joined Urban Studies this last year (listed below alphabetically by name).

Fredrik Andersson, Assistant Professor Nonprofit and Public Administration College of Letters and Science

Tina Freiberger, Associate Professor Criminal Justice Helen Bader School of Social Welfare

Ivy Lingqian Hu, Assistant Professor Urban Planning School of Architecture and Urban Planning

Jenna Loyd, Assistant Professor Public Health Policy & Administration Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health

Daniel McClure, Assistant Professor Africology College of Letters and Science

Aki Roberts, Assistant Professor Sociology College of Letters and Science

Aaron Schutz, Associate Professor Educational Policy and Community Studies School of Education

Arijit Sen, Associate Professor Architecture School of Architecture and Urban Planning

Erin Winkler, Associate Professor Africology College of Letters and Science
**Alumni News**

**Dr. Michael Lorr** (PhD ’12) will be leaving his current Assistant Professor position in Sociology at Florida State College at Jacksonville to accept a new position as Director of the Community Leadership Program and Associate Professor of Sociology at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, beginning in the fall of 2014.

**Dr. Eric Gass** (PhD ’07) was elected to serve as President of the Wisconsin Public Health Association (an affiliate of the American Public Health Association) in 2015.

**Dr. Kimberly Triplett** (PhD ’10) received a grant worth more than $123,000 from the Tennessee Department of Transportation to conduct public involvement outreach efforts for the state.


On October 11, 2013, we held the first of two Alumni/Former Student Happy Hour events at Wolf Peach Restaurant. Stay tuned for a happy hour event in the fall of 2014.

Distinguished Professor Margo Anderson and alumnus Dr. Michael Martin (MS ’95; PhD ’03) discussed the Urban Studies program at UWM with Tom Luljak on WUWM public radio. Hear the interview at: http://wuwm.com/post/challenges-more-people-living-urban-areas

And, good news for our current and future students – over the Spring Forum and Alumni Reunion weekend, a meeting was held with alumni to gauge interest in developing a mentorship program for both students and alumni. A survey was administered at the end of the meeting so stay tuned for more details this coming fall.

**Thank You Friends for Supporting Student Research!**

All of us in Urban Studies would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our donors whose gifts go directly to supporting graduate student research.

Roger Durand (MS ’66)
Jeff Eagan (MS ’78)
Dr. Edward J. Gumz (PhD ’86)
Edmund T. Mazur, Jr. (MS ’72)
Dr. Linda Scheible (PhD ’91)
Linda Sunde (MS ’87)
Harry Weiner (MS ’75)
Nancy D. Yttre (MS ’93)

And, alumnus Dennis Kocher (MS ’80) and his wife, Marj, owners of Goblets by Marj, who once again kindly donated beautiful hand-painted goblets as gifts for the winners of the Scott Greer awards and for beautiful centerpieces at the Awards Dinner.

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