

## Urban Studies at UWM is turning 50 – 1963-2013!

Stay tuned for more information about upcoming events. If you have photos, stories, or ideas about how to celebrate our collective past and future, please send them to Jamie Harris, [jmh@uwm.edu](mailto:jmh@uwm.edu) or 414-229-4629.

## Director's Letter

I am writing this message from the temporary offices of the Urban Studies Programs in the new "Northwest Quadrant" of the UWM campus (which most of you will remember as the site of Columbia Hospital). In contrast to the Bolton Hall office, from which I could sometimes see Lake Michigan, on clear days here I can see for miles into the northern suburbs and northwest into Milwaukee. This shift in view serves to remind me how much I have learned in four years as USP Director, a term that has taught me more than I imagined about administrative work, universities, graduate teaching, and – most fruitfully – the astonishing and endlessly interesting students who seek out UWM's Urban Studies Programs.

But after four years, it is time to find another new lens on UWM. I am stepping down as Director to return to research and teaching. Professor Jasmine Alinder will have taken over as Director by the time you read this message. Please see the box at right for more information about Professor Alinder and also new urban studies affiliate, Professor Paru Shah.

I thank you all for your part in teaching me to see UWM from a new angle. Stay in touch!

  
Amanda Seligman

*One of the projects that will fill Amanda's time is the Encyclopedia of Milwaukee. This new research, spearheaded by Amanda and Professor Margo Anderson, will result in a print and web-based repository of historical and cultural information about the City, from its founding to the present. If you would like to know more about the project, volunteer your expertise, or donate images, please contact Amanda or Margo at [seligman@uwm.edu](mailto:seligman@uwm.edu) or [margo@uwm.edu](mailto:margo@uwm.edu).*

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## Welcome New Urban Studies Faculty Members

**Jasmine Alinder** is an Associate Professor in the Department of History and coordinator of the public history program. She is the project director of the March on Milwaukee Civil Rights History Project ([www.marchonmilwaukee.uwm.edu](http://www.marchonmilwaukee.uwm.edu)). In 2009, she published *Moving Images: Photography and the Japanese American Incarceration* (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2009). She recently completed a Ryskamp fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies, which focused on censorship and photography in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Alinder is in her second term as a board member for the Wisconsin Humanities Council, and in her first term as board president of Parents for Public Schools of Milwaukee. She also serves as a volunteer for the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council. Professor Alinder is the new Director of the Urban Studies Programs, starting fall 2012.

**Assistant Professor Paru Shah** is a new member of the UWM Political Science faculty. Her research centers on American politics, with an emphasis on race, ethnicity and politics, urban politics, and public policy analysis. She is currently working on a number of projects that examine the link between the growth of multiracial/ethnic places and democratic inclusion. She also has a grant to collect data on local elections, with a particular interest in understanding when racial/ethnic minority candidates emerge in electoral politics.

# Program Updates From the Associate Director

This fall semester we welcome 8 new Master's students (plus an additional 3 new Master's students who started last spring semester) and 4 new PhD students (plus an additional PhD student who started last spring semester) to urban studies, and our undergraduate major continues to grow with 21 new majors declared this past year. For these majors, one exciting new development is the offering of the Capstone Seminar (UrbStd 600) that students take in their senior year. In the course, offered each spring, students develop a detailed urban-focused research proposal that they then present at the Student Forum conference.



*Associate Director Jamie Harris*

It is also fulfilling to share the success of our students – one of our majors, Nicholas Moe, was recently honored for his participation with the Center for Urban Initiatives and Research's



*Nicholas Moe presenting his research at the UWM Undergraduate Research Symposium*

Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program at UWM.

This highly selective program placed Nic with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation where he worked on the Milwaukee Succeeds program. Findings from his research were presented at the UWM Undergraduate Research Symposium held at the end of the Spring semester.

On behalf of the program, I extend our congratulations to all of our students who earned their degree during the 2011-12 academic year:

## **Bachelor's Degrees:**

- Jessica Helgesen
- Brian Huhn
- Neal Johnson
- Timothy Kottka
- Jordan Motkowski
- Amanda Olson
- Jerrod Van Oudenhoven
- Mark Yatchak

## **Master's Degrees:**

- Sarah Jennifer Barber, "Never Stop Working: Examining the Life and Activism of Howard Fuller." Advised by Amanda Seligman.
- John Paul Finan, "Is Municipal-Level Economic Development Effective for Metropolitan-Level Growth? A Study of Local Incentives in the Milwaukee-Racine CMSA, 1977-2007." Advised by Linda McCarthy.
- Jerome Knapp, "Blue Bird, Black Bird: Construction Unions and Identity in the New Economy." Advised by Amanda Seligman.
- Andrew Krystowiak, "Shifting Gears: Changing Urban Transportation Policy in Milwaukee despite the Existing Urban Power Structure, 1943-2010." Advised by Joel Rast.
- Rebecca Nole, "All Pull Together: Evaluating Collaboration in Milwaukee's Harambee Great Neighborhood Initiative." Advised by Judith Kenny.
- Nicholas Papakis, "Hegemonic Crisis and Urban Unrest: the Case of December 2008 in Greece." Advised by Kristin Sziarto.
- Alecka Patt, "Well City Milwaukee: A Qualitative Approach Looking at an Interorganizational Collaboration." Advised by Ann Greer.
- Daniel Toth, "Wealth-Based Service Inequalities and Milwaukee's Business Improvement Districts." Advised by Anne Bonds.

## **Doctoral Degrees:**

- Tomás Garrett-Rosas, "Making The Invisible Visible: Examining the Schooling Experiences of High Achieving African American, Latina/o, and Mixed Race/Multi-Ethnic Urban High School Students." Advised by William Vélez.
- Michael Lorr, "The Popularization of Sustainable Urban Development: Chicago, Vancouver, and Marketing Environmental and Spatial Justice in an Era of Neoliberalism." Advised by Joe Austin.
- Karen W. Moore, "Missed Connections: The 'Progressive' Derailment of Public Transit in Metropolitan Milwaukee during the Electric Street Railway Era." Advised by Margo Anderson.

# Student Travels

**Urban Studies majors, Matthew Leser and Anthony Stein, headed to Tena, Ecuador as part of an internship in town planning through the Urban and Regional Studies program at UW-GB. Anthony gives the description in his own words:**

My study abroad experience this summer was absolutely amazing. For a little over a month, I interned for the city of Tena, Ecuador, as a member of a research and design team to help reclassify and redesign the city's transportation system and routes. Experiencing and learning a new culture was a very rewarding feeling, and was crucial to the work I was doing for the city. As an Urban Studies and Architecture student, I mostly dealt with the design aspect of the project, developing plans regarding their streets and streetscapes. As a team, we also designed the addition of a bicycle system throughout the city, creating multiple bike routes that connect to the city's overall transportation system. A key aspect to our work in Ecuador was to help the city promote the future use of the bicycle routes through design, and steer people away from using the car. The experience that I had in Ecuador was one that I will never forget.



**Anthony Stein (top left) and Matthew Leser (second from right, top row)**



**Gestina Sewell in Morocco (back row, third from right)**

**Urban Studies Master's student, Gestina Sewell, shares her experiences in Morocco:**

From the historical tours of Casablanca, Rabat and Fes, to learning how difficult it is to take the meat out of tajine, over and over again I was awed and surprised at the things I learned about Northern Africa, Morocco and myself. I have learned that sometimes when you are walking through the Medina in Fes or up the mountain in Zawiya Ahansal you have to be ever-cognizant of your surroundings, as you have to beware of the passing donkey, who always has the right away, and its droppings. I have learned that the history behind such cities as Casablanca, Rabat, Fes and Marrakesh is so complex and fascinating that a person can live in Morocco all his or her life and never know everything

about these cities. I have learned that taxi drivers in Rabat can be scary, but they will always get you to where you need to be fast. And, I have learned that being addressed as someone's sister in every city I visit, although initially weird, is a compliment that I do not mind taking.

## UAA conference in Pittsburgh

As many of you know, the Urban Affairs Association, the major professional organization of urbanists in the United States and which organizes the annual conference, is housed next to Urban Studies now. This year's conference in Pittsburgh provided an opportunity for three USP graduate students (Nelida Cortes, Dirk Rieber, and Michael Ford) to do some work during the conference in exchange for a travel stipend, lodging accommodations and waived registration fees.

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

Patrick G. Ashwood  
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Robert Silverman

Pauli Taylor-Boyd  
Harry M. Weiner  
Steven R. Yaffe  
Nancy D. Yttre

And, alumnus Dennis Kocher 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.

# Student Spotlight *(in their own words)*

## Neal Johnson, BA '12

*Urban Studies Major*

I am proud to have just graduated with my BA in Urban Studies, with Honors!

I have always had a fascination with cities and urban life, which is why I chose Urban Studies as my major. Throughout the program I had the opportunity to study and theorize about urban life, but also learn about the problems and challenges that face urban areas, how they can be solved and what influences them. While learning about the history and dynamics of urban areas, I had the pleasure of meeting and working with professors and students who had a profound effect on my success.

I will be continuing at UWM as a graduate student in Urban Studies and serving as a project assistant for a faculty member's research. I am excited for this great opportunity to fund my graduate studies and to expand my post-graduate options.



## Jessica Helgesen, BA '12

*Urban Studies and Geography Major, Spanish Minor*

As a recent graduate, I gratefully look back at the academic opportunities I pursued while at UWM. I received the GRO Fellowship with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which involved an internship in Portland, Oregon, where I analyzed wetland assessments for use in urban settings. In the spring of 2012, I conducted fieldwork with a team of Geography students in Cayo West, Belize, collecting and analyzing data on a local land use plan. My last year, I worked with Professor Ryan Holifield on my undergraduate senior honors thesis on sustainable regionalism through the Honors College. Post-graduation, I plan to attend graduate school in urban planning and/or working with the Peace Corps. My experiences at UWM allowed me to grow academically and beyond, strengthening my passion for making a difference through sustainability. Program Note: Jess was a big help to Urban Studies during the years she worked in our office. She'll be missed.



## Rebecca Nole, MS '12



In addition to completing a Master's Degree in the Urban Studies program this spring, I finished with a certificate in nonprofit management. My interests as both an urbanist and nonprofit practitioner led me to the Harambee Great Neighborhood Initiative, the focus of my thesis research. The paper considers the role of the contemporary political economy in a neighborhood-based initiative steered and implemented by both community and outsider interests. This study raised the complex notion of scale and how national and community organizations work in tandem or tension to address local conditions. The uneven attention to recognizable bricks and mortar projects in this initiative only minimally represented the priorities of the community. The influence of neoliberal policies is illustrated in the messaging that asks the neighborhood to be entrepreneurial, and I find that this framework does not pay significant attention to the issues of race and class.

The Urban Studies program provided me with interdisciplinary course work that was both exciting and provocative. Through generous project assistantships, I connected with research and professors across the program, an opportunity which expanded and enriched my network and hands-on academic experience.

I am looking forward to continuing my studies in the field of geography and will be exploring GIS this fall as I prepare my application for the PhD program. This summer, I am thrilled to continue supporting the Center for Economic Development and the Center for Canadian-American Policy Studies as a research assistant. It is also my intention to continue exploring possible research projects associated with the Harambee case. Additionally, I am a director on the Board at the Riverwest Public House, the second community-owned and worker collectively-managed co-op bar in the United States and in my second Board term at the North American Students of Co-operation where I am excited to be attending the International Summit of Co-ops this fall in Québec City. My volunteer governance and research work both has informed and continues to be impacted by the valuable experience I've had over these past three years in Urban Studies. *(Student Spotlights continued on page 5)*

# Student Spotlight (in their own words)

## Tomás Garrett-Rosas, PhD, '12

The Urban Studies Program at UWM has been a challenging and rewarding experience for me. One of the biggest benefits that I received from the program was the multi-disciplinary approach towards education and research. In addition to the sociological perspective, I was able to gain knowledge from historical and educational points of view.

The title of my dissertation is “Making the Invisible Visible: Examining the Schooling Experiences of High Achieving African American, Latina/o, and Mixed Race/Multi-Ethnic Urban High School Students.” I sought to uncover the factors associated with the academic success of students of color. I found that there is a pipeline for these high-achieving students that starts in elementary school and is influenced by social class. I also argued that stereotype threat can lead to individualistic racial identities, a dual consciousness and colorblind ideologies. Finally, I found that extra-curricular activities in churches, college bridge programs, and caring teachers all play an important role in the formation of these students’ social capital and academic success.

I will begin teaching in the Sociology Department at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in the fall. Some of the courses I am developing include minority groups and social problems. I also plan to expand upon my current research to analyze the impact of social class and Obama’s presidency on the formation of racial identity in students of color.



## New and Noteworthy From Around USP:

Four families welcomed new members – Ellie Margaret joined **Professor Douglas Ihrke’s** family. Hazel Olivia was born to **Professor Anne Bonds** on June 24, 2012. Baby Emil joined the family of **doctoral student Dirk Rieber** last September 17, 2011. And, **doctoral student Mike Ford** had a son, John Alton Ford, on January 15, 2012. Mike also authored a report on schools and teacher pay that received extensive news coverage.

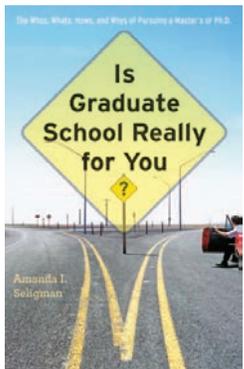


Emil Rieber

**Professor Joseph Rodriguez** was a guest on *4th Street Forum*, a nonpartisan program that promotes public discussion of political and social issues. Joe was a panelist on the November 2011 episode titled “Enemies Everywhere: Politics as Warfare.”

**Associate Director Jamie Harris** was featured in a Shorewood Patch article for his work in making Shorewood a “bicycle-friendly community.”

**Professor Judith Kenny** is retiring from the UWM faculty and relocating to the West Coast.



**Professor Amanda Seligman** published *Is Graduate School Really for You? The Whos, Whats, Hows, and Whys of Pursuing a Master’s or PhD* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012).

The following professors announced their resignations from the Urban Studies faculty: **A. Aneesh** (Sociology), **Joe Austin** (History), **John Bohte** (Political Science), **Noelle Chesley** (Sociology), and **Kent Redding** (Sociology). We thank them for their years of service and wish them many more fruitful years as they concentrate on serving their home departments.

**MS student Jerry Knapp** started a new position as Executive Director of the King Drive Business Improvement District.

**PhD student Danielle Romain**, who is also an instructor for Urban Studies, was awarded the Criminal Justice Adjunct Teaching Award by UWM’s Criminal Justice Department.

**Doctoral Student Michele Radi** was awarded an Advanced Opportunity Program fellowship from the UWM Graduate School.

**Doctoral graduate Mike Lorr** has multiple causes for celebration. In addition to having an article based on his preliminary examination, “Defining Urban Sustainability in The Context of North American Cities,” accepted for publication in *Nature+Culture* (Spring 2012), Mike got married to Dr. Marsely Kehoe and accepted a position as Assistant Professor of sociology at Florida State College at Jacksonville.

# Events Roundup

Many events for students, faculty members and the general public were held last year:

- A student panel at the fall new student orientation.
- “Demystifying the Prelim” Workshop
- An Alumni Workshop with Suzanne Ludlow (MS, 86) on careers in local government, particularly in city planning. Ms. Ludlow is the deputy city manager of Takoma Park, Maryland.
- A Graduate Student Colloquium with George Papakis, PhD Candidate. George presented “Space, Power, Politics, Activism, and Urban Redevelopment in Contemporary Athens: The Case of the Elliniko International Airport.”
- Urban Studies and History professor Marc Levine offered his course on *The Wire* and brought in cast member Sonja Sohn. A video highlighting the visit is on the College of Letters & Science YouTube channel at <http://youtu.be/tfogSF6se2E>
- The Fall Social and Lecture featured keynote speaker Dr. Todd Swanstrom, the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor in Community Collaboration and Public Policy at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and co-author of *Place Matters: Metropolitcs for the Twenty-First Century*. He explored the idea of returning social justice to the center of urban policy debates and discussed the concept of “thick injustice” he developed (with coeditor, C. Hayward) in the newly published *Justice and the American Metropolis*.



Our booth at Open House for prospective students.



Discussion of public housing following the premiere of *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth* at the Milwaukee Film Festival.

## Sixth Annual Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit – November 9, 2011

Last year’s focus on Milwaukee and the Great Recession stemmed from the sustained downturn of the economy, high unemployment, and the continued fallout from the foreclosure crisis here and in cities across the U.S., as well as the urgent need to find quick and lasting solutions. A panel of community leaders and experts included Kathryn Dunn, Vice President of Community Investments, at the Greater Milwaukee Foundation; Dr. William Holahan, Professor of Economics at UWM; Daniel Idzikowski, JD, Assistant Dean for Public Service at Marquette University Law School; and Deloris Sims, Co-Founder and CEO of Legacy Bank.



## 17th Annual Student Forum – April 28, 2012

Students from Art History, Sociology, History, Architecture and Urban Studies presented papers across a variety of urban-themed sessions at UWM’s Zelazo Center. For the first time, the senior capstone seminar students presented posters (see Associate Director Program Updates). This year’s keynote presentation was by Occidental College E.P. Clapp Distinguished Professor of Politics, Peter Dreier on “Occupy and Organize: Can Social Movements Fix the Urban Crisis?”



# Scott Greer Awards

## Dr. Edward J. Gumz



Dr. Edward J. Gumz received the Postgraduate Achievement in Advancing Understanding of Urban Social Institutions award. Dr.

Gumz received his PhD. in Urban Social Institutions from UWM in 1986. His dissertation examined the role of social workers, family court commissioners, and judges in the Milwaukee County Family Court, and was later published as a book under the title, *Professionals and Their Work in the Family Divorce Court* (Charles C. Thomas Publishers, 1987). Dr. Gumz taught in the Department of Social Work at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and Loyola University Chicago School of Social Work, where he was chairman of the Undergraduate Social Work Program and continues to teach in the MSW program there. He achieved tenure at both institutions and taught in the area of social policy, examining its relevance for social work practice and educating social work students about strategies to use to effect change at both the organizational and institutional levels; he brought an important historical and sociological lens to his teaching and scholarship regarding the social welfare institution. He is active in several communities, serving on a number of boards of directors of mental health and social welfare organizations.

## Mr. Charles M. Hill, Sr.



Mr. Charles M. Hill, Sr. is the recipient of the Scott Greer Award for Postgraduate Contribution

to Urban Affairs. He received his Master's degree in Urban Affairs from UWM in 1968 as part of the first

year program cohort, 1963-64. He has been known as an advocate for the disadvantaged throughout his life, starting as one of the leaders in the 1964 boycott of Milwaukee's segregated schools. In 1970, he became the first African-American cabinet officer in Wisconsin and served at the pleasure of three Governors. During his tenure, he was instrumental in the creation of the state housing finance authority (WHEDA) and served as its Chairman. He also served on two Presidential task forces. As Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice he was instrumental in creating a new Children's Code and a statewide Public Defender program. From 1978 until his retirement in February of 2000, he was Executive Vice President, Community Investment Officer, and Chief Operating Officer of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago, and designed a number of housing programs for low income families. He was commended by President Clinton for his achievements and continues in his advocacy role for those who are less fortunate. Since 2000, the Wisconsin Housing Collaborative presents the Charles M. Hill, Sr. Award for Housing Excellence to a pioneering recipient whose work has touched the lives of people in need.

## Mr. Scott R. Letteney



Mr. Scott R. Letteney received the Scott Greer Award for Outstanding Urban Research for his paper:

"The saga of a landslide reelection, baby bonds, and a recall: Mayor Daniel W. Hoan, 1932-1933." He is currently a doctoral student in Urban Studies and also graduated from UWM with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1985. He received a Juris Doctorate from

Marquette University Law School in 1988, where he was a member of the law review. He was awarded a Master of Public Administration degree, with a municipal management concentration, from UWM in 2011. In his full-time professional life, Mr. Letteney is the Deputy City Attorney for the City of Racine, the elected Municipal Judge for the Town of Geneva, and a retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel, having served 21 years as a judge advocate on active-duty and as a reservist.

## Michael Ford

Michael Ford, a PhD Candidate in Urban Studies, received the USP Dissertation Research Grant award at this year's Student Forum.

## In Other Alumni News...

Former MS student José Pérez was elected 12th District Milwaukee alderman in April 2012.

We received news of the death of David Carter in February, 2012. The *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* ran a column about the circumstances of Mr. Carter's death.

MS alumnus Mark Rice was a Fellow in the inaugural class of the Wisconsin Political Leaders Fellowship, which is the flagship program of the Center for Progressive Leadership (CPL). The Fellowship is a nine-month, part-time leadership development program for a select group of organizational leaders, future candidates, community organizers, and progressive activists across the state.

Doctoral alumna Kimberly (Stephenson) Triplett published "Environmental Justice and Transportation: An Analysis of Public Involvement at Pennsylvania Department of Transportation." *Race, Gender & Class Journal*, Vol. 18, Number 3-4, 2011 (348-371), with Glenn S. Johnson.



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