

Director's Letter

It has been quite the year in Wisconsin. In addition to unusual floods and snowstorms, as you know from national news coverage, the entire state has been riveted by the debate over the governor's proposals for the budget and the rights of state employees. As I write, UWM is still sorting out all the ramifications of the changes at the state level.



One major change that USP faces is the loss of eight faculty members. In addition to two faculty members who are leaving for positions at other universities, last spring six faculty members announced their retirements. Chris De Sousa is moving to Ryerson University, and Steve Percy is taking up a position as the Dean of the College of Public Affairs at the University of Baltimore. The Sociology Department is bidding farewell to Lakshmi Bharadwaj, Ron Edari, and Ann Greer, all of whom have also served Urban Studies, with Professors Greer and Edari regularly teaching core doctoral courses. Michael Gordon, Steve Meyer, and Philip Shashko all have retired from the Department of History. I would like to thank all of our departing colleagues for their service to the Urban Studies community.

Despite the distractions of state politics, USP kept up a busy schedule of activities, which you can read about in the pages of this newsletter. Our public events, including lectures by Raquel Pinderhughes and Don Mitchell and the annual Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit, continue to attract large crowds. We have also offered some more intimate workshops about the nuts and bolts of academic life for graduate students and the big picture of our field of urban studies.

During the next academic year, in addition to a temporary relocation to UWM's new Northwest Quadrant, the USP faculty anticipates taking a careful look at our graduate curricula. I would love to hear from alumni about your memories of the courses you took in Urban Affairs and Urban Studies. I am especially interested in knowing what ideas and skills were so valuable to your educational experiences at UWM that you continue to engage them today. Please do email me with your reflections at seligman@uwm.edu.

Sincerely,

Amanda I. Seligman

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During the 2011-12 academic year, occupants of floors 4-8 of Bolton Hall will be moving temporarily to UWM's newly-acquired Northwest Quadrant (formerly Columbia Hospital). After an HVAC renovation to Bolton Hall, USP will return to our updated quarters.

Major and Certificate News

The major in Urban Studies continues to grow, with 16 new majors declared last year. Two students graduated in Spring 2011 – Phin Hansen and Matthew McCallum (see Student Spotlights). Eight students declared and one student completed their undergraduate certificate in Urban Studies.

New Capstone Course Approved

A new capstone course – Urban Studies 600 – was approved and will be offered to majors with senior standing each spring. This course provides a culminating seminar experience for our majors.

UWM Open House

With the growth of undergraduate programs in Urban Studies, USP participated for the first time in the UWM Open House. The large number of USP-sponsored events memorialized in poster form lent themselves to making a strong visual statement about our program to



Photo Above:
Open House, October 29, 2010



Photo Above:
Thesis/Dissertation workshop, March 4, 2011

prospective undergrads and their families.

Upcoming Events

6th Annual Milwaukee Summit

Join us for the sixth annual Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit. The Summit will be held on Thursday, November 10th, 2011 at the Hefter Center. This year's theme is the Great Recession and its impact on Milwaukee neighborhoods and the region. A variety of perspectives from a distinguished panel will address the rise of subprime and predatory lending, the foreclosure crisis, and recent governmental austerity measures.



Photo Above:
In response to a set of short articles that appeared in *The Journal of Urban Affairs* that attempted to define the field, we held our own "What is urban studies?" discussion. Questions about what makes urban studies a distinctive body of knowledge and area for empirical inquiry and theoretical formulation can be quite controversial.



JAMIE
HARRIS

Fall Social

Our Fall Social will be held September 23rd at the Hefter Center. Todd Swanstrom, the E. Desmond Lee Endowed Professor in Community Collaboration and Public Policy at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, will be our speaker. He is the author of numerous books and articles, including *Place Matters: Metropolitcs for the Twenty-first Century* (University Press of Kansas, 2005).

Student Forum

Join us for the 17th Annual Student Forum to be held on Saturday, April 28th, 2012, at the Zelazo Center, across from the Union. Peter Dreier, the Dr. E.P. Clapp Distinguished Professor of Politics and director of the Urban & Environmental Policy Program at Occidental College in Los Angeles, will be our keynote speaker.

Workshops

Other workshops and colloquia offered this year included workshops on publishing in academic journals and writing a thesis or dissertation; a presentation by Professor Joe Rodriguez on his experience as a Fulbright Scholar in Taiwan; and a discussion of recent articles on the topic "what is urban studies."

Milestones and Congratulations

- MS student **Sarah Barber** received a fellowship from the American Indian Graduate Center.
- USP doctoral student **Ryan Anderson** and his wife welcomed new baby, Jade Elizabeth Anderson, on May 5, 2010.
- USP doctoral student **Dirk Rieber** married Esther Schaub on December 30, 2010, in Las Vegas, NV.
- **Dr. Kimberly Stephenson** married Michael Triplett in Spring 2011 and accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Urban Studies in the College of Public Service & Urban Affairs at Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee.
- On August 14, 2010, **Ashley Malenke** got married and became Ashley Quandt.
- USP doctoral student **Margaret (Megan) Zienkiewicz** was featured in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* as a winner of the “lousy cook” contest. She won cooking lessons!
- USP doctoral student **Mike Ford** just published “School Exits in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program: Evidence of a Marketplace?” in the *Journal of School Choice* (vol. 5, no. 2, June 2011). He was also recently quoted in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* on the school voucher program in Milwaukee.
- **Karen W. Moore**, USP doctoral student, accepted a one-year appointment in the UW-Whitewater Political Science Department for 2011-12.
- USP doctoral student **Deborah Blanks**’ opinion piece ran in the June 8, 2011, issue of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.
- USP doctoral student **Ron Smith** was granted the Spirit of the College of Professional Studies Award from his cross-town alma mater Marquette.
- USP master’s student **Nelida Cortes** received an Advanced Opportunity Fellowship from UWM’s Graduate School.
- Alumna **Chieko Maene** is working as a GIS specialist at the Social Science Computing Services (SSCS) department of the University of Chicago.
- Alumnus **Steve Byers** is a Marquette University Assistant Professor of Journalism and faculty advisor to the *Marquette Tribune*. The *Tribune* won an award from the Society for Professional Journalists for being the best non-daily student newspaper in the nation out of over 4,000 entries.



Our Graduates

DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Ozgur Avci

Major Professors: Jennifer Jordan and Kent Redding

Dissertation Title: “The Gecekondulu in Turkey: Representation, Identity, and the Urban Poor in the 1970s”

Qiang Zhou

Major Professor: A. Aneesh

Dissertation Title: “Foreign Investments and City Making: A Case Study in Yangtze River Delta, PRC”

MASTER’S STUDENTS

Katie Grafelman

Major Professor: Linda McCarthy

Thesis Title: “Green Burial: Insights from Industry Practitioners and Popular Media”

Liis Palumets

Major Professor: Rina Ghose

Paper Title: “The Data Center as a Spatial Data Provider to Milwaukee Community Organizations”

Ashley (Malenke) Quandt

Major Professor: Marc Levine

Thesis Title: “Historical and National Connections: Industrial Milwaukee and the Current Subprime Mortgage Crisis”

Obituary

We were sorry to learn that alumnus Ron Snyder passed away November 24, 2010. Ron completed his multidisciplinary doctoral degree that focused on urban history under USP’s auspices in 2002. His dissertation was entitled, “Chief for Life: Harold Breier and his Era.” He is survived among others by his wife, Patricia Hayes, of the UWM Graduate School. She aids our doctoral students in completing the formalities relating to their degrees.

e.polis

The next issue of e.polis is expected to come out early in the Fall semester.

<http://www4.uwm.edu/letscli/urbanstudies/epolis/>



**PhD in Urban Studies Graduate
Ozgur Avci:**

On Urban Studies at UWM. I spent about 6 years in the Urban Studies program at UWM. It was

a life-changing experience in every respect. I did not only earn a PhD degree, but also gained life-long friends/professors/colleagues as well as a baby girl in Milwaukee. I wrote a dissertation on the symbolic constructions of an urban-poor, “gecekondu,” identity in Turkey in the 1960s and 1970s. I argued that the gecekondu identity was an “other” to any political ideology, being neither in nor out, because of its incompatibility with all established paradigms explaining social development. Therefore, this marginal identity marked the boundaries of every symbolic system in this period.

On the Future. “I am looking for an academic job in Turkey. I am hopeful that my doctoral degree in urban studies will help me find a faculty position in a department or program such as political science, sociology, media and cultural studies, or urban studies.



**Master's in Urban Studies Graduate
Liis Palumets:**

My Master's paper was titled “The Data Center as a Spatial Data

Provider to Milwaukee Community Organizations.” The paper was mainly based on my internship experience at the Data Center of the Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee in fall 2010 and complemented by interviews and document analysis. The Data Center is an important source of spatial information for community organizations, helping them make well-informed decisions about the development of the neighborhoods. However, the strength of the Data Center mainly lies in the individuals working there, while the organizational sustainability is rather weak because of limited budget and staff size.

On Urban Studies. Having grown up in a small village in Estonia, I discovered the allure of city life while an exchange student in Berlin, Germany. I started wondering what makes some cities a wonderful place to live, while others cause distress and frustration. The Urban Studies Program at UWM provides a wonderful multidisciplinary answer (or rather a key to the answer) to that question. Having studied sociology and political science during my undergrad career, I especially enjoyed learning about the perspectives and research methods of geography and history and was fascinated about the synergy of bringing various disciplines together to study urban affairs.

What I am doing now. I graduated from the Urban Studies Master's program in May 2011 and currently work in the field of urban development in the Office of the Minister for Regional Affairs of Estonia, my native country.



**BA Major in Urban Studies Graduate
Matthew McCallum**

After taking Urban Studies 377 (Urbanism and

Urbanization) I found myself fascinated by the historic, economic, and social factors that have shaped the contemporary urban environment. My coursework in the Urban Studies Programs at UWM allowed me to gain an understanding of how and why cities have developed, and the societal impact of urban development patterns throughout the world. The knowledge and experiences I have gained as a student in the Urban Studies Programs will undoubtedly prove beneficial as I plan to pursue a Master's Degree in City & Metropolitan Planning from the University of Utah in the fall of 2012.

The Henry Maier funds are used in part to underwrite graduate student travel to conferences to present research. Four doctoral students report on their travels.

Michael J. Lorr

I attended and presented a paper (“The Social Construction of Sustainable Housing in Vancouver, BC,” which is a portion of a dissertation chapter) at the Urban History Association's 5th Biennial Conference in Las Vegas, NV, from October 20-23, 2010. The Conference theme “Sustainable Cities” matched up well with my own research on the popularization of urban sustainable development.

Before going to the conference, I secured travel funding from the Urban Studies Programs and from the UWM

Graduate School's Graduate Student Travel Award Program. During the conference, I socialized with fellow graduate students and professional scholars interested in many of the topics that I am currently researching. I met the discussant of my panel and many other people including Sharon Zukin and Dolores Hayden, who is the 2010 president of the Urban History Association. It was encouraging to talk to them about the challenges of finishing a Ph.D. and may eventually help me create the necessary social network for attaining an academic job.

Tomas Garrett

Going through the Urban Studies Programs at UWM has been a great experience and journey for me. Having survived the coursework and prelims, I am now actively engaged in research on minority academic achievement in public schools.

This last year I had the opportunity to present the findings of my research at the 2011 Hawaii International Conference on Education that was held January 4-8, 2011, in Honolulu, Hawaii. The title of my dissertation is "Making the Invisible Visible: Examining the Schooling Experiences of High Achieving African American, Latina/o, and Mixed Race/Multiethnic High School Students."

Professors, teachers, and students from all over the world were in attendance. I got to hear many amazing presentations on the work that these scholars conducted on educational research as well as engage in important networking. Honolulu is beautiful and getting the opportunity to present my research and receive incredible feedback on my hard work made this one of the best experiences of my life. I am also happy to announce that my paper has been recently accepted to present at the American Sociological Association's Annual Meeting in August. I'd like to thank all of the wonderful USP faculty, staff, and my dissertation committee for helping me to develop my study and achieve my Ph.D. in Urban Studies. Aloha!

Karen W. Moore

I was grateful to receive funding from the UWM Urban Studies Programs for attendance at the 35th annual Social Science History Association Conference held at the Palmer House in Chicago, November 18-21, 2010. The conference theme was "Power and Politics." My presentation was part of a session called "The Urban Environment in Historical Perspective."

I presented a version of my fourth dissertation chapter, regarding the role that the Wisconsin Railroad Commission played in disillusioning Milwaukee residents regarding public rail transit. My premise was that state regulation of the privately owned local transit system created another layer of complexity and hampered public engagement in transportation planning, which Milwaukee's Socialist leaders had fostered.

George Papakis

Last April I had the opportunity to participate in a conference at the University of Colorado, Boulder, titled "Mediterranean Encounters in the City." This international conference featured presenters from many universities and countries focusing on an interdisciplinary examination of the Mediterranean city. Indeed, the roster of speakers represented a variety of disciplines: from political science, history, anthropology and geography to literary criticism, communication, religious studies and linguistics.

It was this range of disciplines that attracted my attention to this conference; Overall, the conference was very beneficial to me because I saw first-hand how urban scholars, who use very different methodological approaches than mine, study urban issues pertinent to my research. My paper, though less historical in scope than the others, attempted to disentangle the contemporary ideological struggle of opposing narratives over the physical form and the political identity of the contemporary Greek city. I am grateful to USP for the financial support and for making it possible for me to participate at the conference.

Student Forum

Right here in Milwaukee, this year's 16th Annual Student Forum took place on April 2, 2011. A variety of students from Education, Geography, History, Architecture and Urban Planning, Sociology, and Urban Studies presented papers across a variety of urban-themed sessions. This year's keynote presentation was given by Donald Mitchell, Distinguished Professor of Geography, Maxwell School at Syracuse University. His keynote address was titled "Retrenchment, Revitalization, or the Right to the City?"



2010 Milwaukee Summit and Awards

The fifth annual Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee was held on Thursday, November 11, 2010, to a packed overflow audience. The focus on public transit in Milwaukee and across the region was especially timely. Leading up to the event, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* ran several front page stories discussing the merits of high speed rail and other transit initiatives, and the debate over high speed rail became a central part of the gubernatorial campaign. The distinguished panel featured Dr. Joel Rast, Associate Professor of Urban Studies and Director of the Center for Economic Development; Rob Henken, President of the Public Policy Forum; Jacky Grimshaw, Vice President for Policy, Center for Neighborhood Technology; and Kerry Thomas, Executive Director of the Southeastern Wisconsin Coalition for Transit NOW. Panelists addressed the importance of transit infrastructure, the KRM commuter rail line, the County transit funding crisis, and the impact of reduced transit on access to jobs.



Panel Speaker Rob Henken

Scott Greer Awards



Interim Dean of the School of Public Health Steve Percy and Dr. Eric Gass

Dr. Eric Gass received the award for Postgraduate Achievement in Advancing Understanding of Urban Social Institutions. He is the Director of Public

Health Research and Policy for the City of Milwaukee Health Department and holds an Adjunct Assistant Professorship in the UWM School of Public Health. Dr. Gass has demonstrated tremendous professional and academic achievement and community leadership in the area of public health in the few short years since receiving his Ph.D. in Urban Studies in 2007. He has published ten peer-reviewed articles in the areas of university-community partnerships, racial differences in hospital admissions, and organizational culture. Upon receiving his Ph.D., he was appointed Assistant Professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin in the department of Family and Community Medicine. He also served as the Operations Manager for the Center for Healthy Families at the Medical College of Wisconsin for over six years. There he helped to obtain nearly \$2.3 million in grants to support

community-based health partnerships in Milwaukee and across the state. Dr. Gass is currently serving his second term on the Board of Directors for the Wisconsin Public Health Association, where he previously served as its Policy Development and Review committee chair, and is currently chairing a Health Care Reform sub-committee.

Dr. Michael Bonds is the recipient of the Scott Greer Award for Postgraduate Contribution to Urban Affairs. Dr. Bonds is an Associate Professor at UWM in the Department of Educational Policy and Community Studies. He is currently the President of the Milwaukee Public Schools' Board of School Directors. Prior to that, he served as a Senior Fiscal Review Analyst and as a Community Development Block Grant consultant to the City of Milwaukee. Dr. Bonds received his doctorate in urban studies from UWM in 1998. His research interests include community development issues, community problems and urban policies and analysis, public resources distributions, and issues related to

Professor Frank Wilson and Dr. Michael Bonds



African-American education. Dr. Bonds' work as a tireless advocate on behalf of MPS students and the important leadership he provides to the

Milwaukee Public Schools reflect the highest values of an engaged urban scholar. In addition to his doctorate in urban studies, Dr. Bonds earned his BA in Criminal Justice, MS in Urban Affairs, and Master's in Public Administration from UWM.

George Papakis

received the Scott Greer Award for Outstanding Urban Research for his paper "The Sobering Realities of the 2004 Olympics: Fiscal Crisis and the Privatization of Land." He

also received a dissertation research grant funded by alumni donations. This award, made on a competitive basis, helps students defray their research expenses. Mr. Papakis is a dissertator in the PhD program in Urban Studies at UWM. He is also a T.A.-Instructor in Urban Studies, having taught Urban Studies 250 "Exploring the Urban Environment" several times. He plans to return to Greece to complete his dissertation research.



Professor Ann Greer and George Papakis

Alumni donations every year support a dissertation research grant to aid doctoral students with their research expenses.

With Gratitude To Our Supporters

- Patrick G. Ashwood
- Dr. Tammy L. Hodo
- Mr. John C. Huettner
- Dr. Robert M. Silverman
- Pauli Taylor-Boyd
- Mr. Harry M. Weiner

— WE COULDN'T DO IT
WITHOUT ALL OF YOU —

Urban Studies would like to offer a special thanks to Urban Affairs alumnus **Dennis Kocher** and his wife, Marj Kocher, who once again donated beautiful hand-painted goblets from their company, Goblets by Marj, for Urban Studies celebrations.

For winners of the Scott Greer awards, they donated three pairs of goblets painted with an image of the Milwaukee sculpture that sits in front of the UWM Golda Meir library. They also donated a full six pairs of goblets to our retiring faculty members. Dennis writes, "It's a real pleasure for us to be able to provide these gifts on behalf of UWM to those who have given so much to their students." In addition to running the business, Dennis has had an active volunteer career with Surgical Eye Expeditions, which travels internationally to provide eye surgeries. He and Marj have put seven international students through college.

For more information on becoming a Friend of Urban Studies, please contact Ann Marie Santora at 414- 229-3294 or santora@uwm.edu.

Faculty Updates

Congratulations to Associate Professor **Rob Smith** for winning the 2011 Fromkin Research Award from the UWM library for his project "Battling Racial Colonialism with Legal Activism: Transnational Cooperation within the Human Rights Bar during the Post-Civil Rights and Post-Independence Eras."

Congratulations to Assistant Professor **Kristin Sziarto** for receiving a fellowship for the 2011-12 academic year from UWM's Center for Twenty-First Century Studies and for receiving a UWM Research Growth Initiative Award for the Muslim Milwaukee Project (with Anna Mansson McGinty and Caroline Seymour-Jorn).

USP Professor **William Velez** and his colleague **Pat Goldsmith** (also from Sociology) also won a Research Growth Initiative Award from the UWM Graduate School. Their topic is "Residential Segregation and Discrete Choice Analysis."

Urban Affairs Association

The Urban Affairs Association, the major professional organization of urbanists in the United States, has come to UWM! After being located at the University of Delaware for many years, the UAA relocated to Milwaukee in July. Executive Director Margaret Wilder and two graduate student Project Assistants work in the UAA's UWM offices, which are temporarily located on the 9th floor of Curtin Hall. They will relocate to be near the USP offices in the future.



USP doctoral student and Graduate Teaching Fellow Jenny Cadenas taught an undergraduate course called "You Are Where You Eat: Urban Food Geographies." Jenny's class is pictured here with author Michael Pollan, who visited UWM during the fall semester.



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