Dear USP Community,

It has been an eventful year. As I composed my message for last Fall’s newsletter one year ago, Donald Trump was accepting the presidential nomination at the GOP convention in Cleveland. Little did many of us suspect that six months later he would be sworn in as the nation’s forty-fifth president. Students sometimes ask me: What does the election of Trump mean for cities? What I usually tell them is that Trump seems to have little interest in addressing the problems of urban America (recall his campaign pitch to inner-city blacks: “Vote for me. What have you got to lose?”). On the other hand, scarce resources and unfriendly public policies are often a call to mobilization, and we are already seeing some of that. One thing is certain: the next four years will provide ample opportunities for those of us engaged in the study of cities to see how these tensions play out, and with what consequences.

In other news…USP hosted a number of successful events last year. Just two days after the presidential election last November we held our annual Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit. The summit theme was: A Frank Conversation about Race in Milwaukee. An overflow crowd of more than 250 people turned out for the moderated discussion, led by former history and USP professor Rob Smith and including USP geographer Anne Bonds, along with several political and civic leaders.

Our annual student research forum, held last April at the Union Fireside Lounge, was also a big success. Keynote speaker Stefanie DeLuca, associate professor of sociology at Johns Hopkins University, shared some great stories about doing qualitative fieldwork in low-income Baltimore neighborhoods.

This fall we will be bringing Rachel Weber, professor of urban planning at the University of Illinois at Chicago, to UWM to give a talk on her recent book, From Boom to Bubble: How Finance Built the New Chicago (University of Chicago Press, 2015). Ever wonder why Chicago’s downtown skyline seems to be constantly expanding? It’s not as simple as you might think. Come to Greene Hall on Friday, September 15, at 2:00 pm and Prof. Weber will explain.

We are sad to say goodbye to a number of our faculty affiliates. Sociology professor William Vélez retired last year. William was a longstanding member of USP who advised and mentored many students over the years and taught graduate courses in urban sociology. We deeply appreciate his many contributions to the program over the years and wish him all the best in his retirement. Also moving on are Rob Smith, Jenna Loyd, and Fredrik Andersson. All will be missed.

On a happier note, we are excited to welcome new faculty affiliates Chia Vang (History) and Marie Sandy (Educational Policy and Community Studies). Both are engaged scholars whose work fits well with USP’s engagement, instructional, and research mission.

We have received generous donations from many of you this past year and for that we are deeply grateful. Your gifts to USP allow us to provide research grants to PhD students to help them complete their dissertations. Every dollar helps. Please consider making a contribution this year. As always, thanks for your support for USP.

Joel Rast
Program News and Student Updates from the Associate Director

Program News

Urban Studies major gets approved by the UW Board of Regents!

After eight years operating as a submajor under the Committee Interdisciplinary Program—the urban studies major received final approval as a full major at the Board of Regents December 2016 meeting.

New Maier Fellowships Announced

USP Maier Fellowships of up to $5K will be offered to support USP Students who take part in USP’s newly created Exchange Program with the Schools of Geography and Planning & Environmental Policy at the University College Dublin (UCD) in Ireland.

USP Faculty Approve Moving Forward with 3+2 Programs

With the major now approved, USP plans to move ahead with 3+2, accelerated BA-Master’s programs that would align our undergraduate major with two professional programs (urban planning and nonprofit management and leadership) and our own MS in Urban Studies degree program. These so called 3+2 programs allow students to complete some of their undergraduate credits as graduate students in a graduate program, and thereby accelerating the time it takes to complete a BA + advanced degree.

Undergraduate News

Please join me in congratulating our Urban Studies Major (BA) and Certificate Grads!

Benjamin Ambroch, Christopher Billick, Kelly Birren, Shawn Bost (certificate), Jessica Cruz, Francis (Frankie) Hozeny (see alumni spotlight below), Lydia Kentowski (certificate), Elizabeth Michalski (certificate), Jack Spoden, Jonathan Steimle, and Sally Svetic.

Urban Studies Majors Take Part in Community Engagement Projects Around the City

Students in Dr. Harris’ Urban Studies Multicultural America course last Fall participated in a variety of Service Learning projects across the city. Service learning is a required part of the course and is frequently a feature of university student service that is designed to provide some form of assistance to a community partner organization, while helping to integrate and apply concepts from the course. Students in last year’s class took part in a variety of projects from working at Victory Garden’s Concordia Gardens site in Milwaukee’s Harambee neighborhood, to creating a commercial inventory for the Burleigh Street Community Development Corporation, to working with youth programs at the Silver Spring Neighborhood Community Center in Center in West Lawn/West Lawn Gardens’ public housing development on the northwest side of the city.

Two of the project sites were connected to the Washington Park Urban Collaborative, part of USP’s architecture professor, Arijit Sen’s field school, and which included students from architecture and dance. The focus of the Urban Collaborative was to develop projects in partnership with community organizations and residents that can activate public spaces, foster neighborhood connections, and that reflect elements of the history of the community. USP major Jake Balistrieri (with classmate Mary Chentis) built a Little Free Library and stocked it with books for an area that was reconfigured to be more welcoming to families who come to ACTS Housing’s main building.

USP major Scott Espinosa worked with classmate Miles Brooks to design and build a display board from reused materials for the owners of Amaranth Bakery and Cafe, David Boucher (and former USP Phd student) and Stephanie Shipley, his wife. Amaranth Bakery is a well-known business/community meeting space in the Walnut Hill/Washington Park neighborhoods. The Cafe hosts numerous community events each year, includes a farmer’s market next door, and has run a community newspaper. The bakery and cafe also has a “pay what you can” policy on certain days.
Senior Capstone Projects Focus on Milwaukee

This spring’s capstone seminar students, under the direction of Dr. Harris, produced 13 different research projects on a variety of topics focused specifically on the city of Milwaukee and metro area, which they presented at a juried poster session at this year’s Student Research Forum. Research projects included: a GIS cluster analysis of Low Income Housing Tax Credit housing; an ethnographic examination of the Persian community in Milwaukee; a study of the contested politics surrounding New Urbanist infill developments in Shorewood; a study of economic development efforts in Racine to connect with Metra commuter rail; political and historical analyses of recent developments such as the Milwaukee Employment and Redevelopment Initiative (MERI) recently created by the Common Council in the wake of the unrest in Sherman Park, the recent panhandling ordinance and campaign, Keep the Change, the Bus Rapid Transit development along Wisconsin Ave, and President Trump’s Executive Orders on immigration, among others. See the Student Research Forum poster awards on page 8.

Major Spotlight – Urban Affairs Association Conference in Minneapolis

Urban Studies was able to support (with additional assistance from the UAA) two of our majors, Trevor Jung and Dakota Crowell, to attend the UAA conference in Minneapolis. Below they offer reflections:

“I had a great experience attending the 47th Annual UAA Conference in Minneapolis. At the conference I was able to attend various sessions on housing and transportation issues that were of great interest to me. I was even able to attend a seminar about Low-Income Housing Tax Credit developments to better understand my own research that I was conducting for my Senior Capstone Seminar at UWM. It was really cool to hear presentations from urban scholars that I have cited in my own work. I knew that I wanted to go to grad school, but was often unsure of what to expect at that higher level of learning. This conference gave me better insight to the field of urban studies and what to expect in grad school. Being a first-generation college student and coming from a low-income family, I often feel that I don’t have the opportunity to attend different conferences and workshops like the UAA conference. This was my first academic conference that I ever attended and learned so much in a short amount of time—it was definitely a highlight of my undergraduate coursework. I look forward to attending the 48th annual conference in Toronto in 2018!” – Dakota Crowell, BA student

“As a first generation college student who is passionate about cities, the UAA Conference in Minneapolis inspired me to be a lifelong learner. Before my UAA experience, graduate school seemed intimidating and out of reach. After going to this conference on urban affairs, graduate school is demystified and to all intents and purposes achievable. I both learned from and enjoyed the academic conversions regarding transportation, economic development and urban governance. While at the conference, I also had the opportunity to meet R.T. Rybak, the former Mayor of Minneapolis and the CEO and President of the Minneapolis Foundation. We discussed cities, ways to make a difference and, my hometown, Racine with all its potential. It was an incredible experience with one of my civic role models. Overall, I am deeply grateful to the Urban Studies Program at UWM for providing me with this opportunity.” – Trevor Jung, BA student

Dakota Crowell and Trevor Jung during the UAA Plenary

Trevor Jung with former Minneapolis mayor, R.T. Rybak
Alumni Spotlight In Their Own Words

Francis (Frankie) Hozeny, BA Urban Studies ‘17

“When I began studying at UW-Milwaukee I was undecided and really didn’t know what focus I would end up pursuing in college. After taking a wide range of courses my freshman and sophomore year, the course that stuck out to me the most was an urban studies course. The course was appealing to me because, in short, it explained why cities are the way they are. It gave an in-depth history of legislation and other factors that contributed to urban issues today and then provided information on new ways of thinking about these complex issues. USP allowed me to take a diverse course load in what interested me and I believe it gave me a very well-rounded education. Through the service-learning program I was able to apply what I had learned as well as gain firsthand experience. As a recent graduate, I am currently pursuing work in the urban planning field, particularly transportation planning. My USP capstone project on Milwaukee’s proposed Bus Rapid Transit project gave me the opportunity to gain significant knowledge and confidence and has been a great addition to my resume.”

Jane Van Eerden, MS ‘17

“I am deeply grateful for my time in the Urban Studies Program. Because of the program, I now approach all decision-making - in my personal and professional life - with a keen awareness of how my actions may affect others; I interrogate how these potential actions are complicit or resistant to existing hierarchies. Further, the program developed my analytical skills. In writing my thesis, focused on the Milwaukee County Mental Health Complex, I became a better interviewer, writer, and reader. These skills continue to serve me and represent the indelible impact that USP has left upon me. I am currently living in San Francisco, where I spend my time hiking, biking, and missing Milwaukee and my former classmates.”

Danielle Romain, PhD ‘17

“Over the past 5.5 years, I have been exposed to different multidisciplinary ideas, theories, and research approaches as an Urban Studies PhD student. The coursework I took as a doctoral student grounded me in different theoretical approaches than I was familiar with given my background in criminal justice, as well as helped broaden my research skills into the qualitative realm. My dissertation examined decision-making in domestic violence probation review hearings, and employed a mixed methods approach requiring a critical discourse analysis of the observations as well as a quantitative analysis of what factors influenced judges’ decisions to sanction a probationer. This research idea was sparked through taking a qualitative research methods class with Dr. Anne Bonds, with a pilot study from that class providing me with the tools to undertake a qualitative component to my dissertation. My exposure to sociological theories in that class, as well as a sociology of institutions class with Dr. Stacey Oliker, helped formulate a theoretical framework that integrated discourse, symbolic interactionism, and intersectionality in examining how disparity across social location becomes manifest in decision-making. My short term plans after graduating are to work on publications that I have put by the wayside while completing my dissertation, as well as planning publications from my dissertation. In addition, I am working as a co-investigator on two projects in the Milwaukee community. I have also accepted a position as an Assistant Professor in the Criminal Justice Department here at UWM beginning this Fall and am excited to begin working on research in the community.”
Congratulations to Our Urban Studies MS and PhD Grads!

Master of Science:

Heather Angelinetta (advisor: Marc Levine) - Paper Title: “The New Jim Crow in the North: Local Perspectives on Mass Incarceration, Wisconsin and Milwaukee”


Joshua Papia (advisor: Marcus Britton) - Paper Title: “Perceptions of Class and Race in Hiring for Low Income Jobs”

Jane Van Eerden (advisor: Anne Bonds) - Paper Title: “Disability, Privatization, and Space: Mental Healthcare in Milwaukee County in Neoliberal Times”

Caitlin Taylor (advisor: Marc Levine) - Paper Title: “Who Cares? Lived Experiences of Home Care Aides in Milwaukee”

PhD:

Steven Krull (advisor: William Vélez) - Dissertation Title: “School Selection Patterns Through the Lenses of Rational Choice Theory and Behavioral Economics Theory”

Danielle Romain (advisor: Tina Freiburger) - Dissertation Title: “Examining the Processes of Social Construction on Decision-making in Domestic Violence Probation Review Hearing”

Graduate News

Incoming Students:

This Fall semester we welcome four new Master’s students (Paul Davidson, Cortney Dunklin, Keila Tirado-Leist, and Kostyn Tyksinski) and four PhD Students (Gonçalo Borges, Toni Johns, Caitlin Taylor, and Joshua Tegan). You can see their short bios below.

Gonçalo Borges (Phd student)

I am a Portuguese student interested in cities, culture, arts, sports, radio, and poetry (writing in general). I recently finished a M.A. in Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Urban Studies is my new passion. My main academic interests are culture and institutions, globalization, sociology of organizations, non-profit organizations, social movements, social inequality, pedagogics, and urban sociology. I am also very interested in urban planning, architecture, and sociology of sports. In the past I have done a bit of everything, from working as a journalist, radio host and producer, researcher, to soccer coach. This means that I am pretty open for new experiences and new horizons. After three years in Milwaukee, I can say: I am at home. Thus, becoming an Urban Studies student in Milwaukee is an absolute pleasure, and time for joy. Studying, understanding and experiencing Milwaukee, as well as contributing to our community are my current goals. Let’s get to work. [Gonçalo will also be working as a PA in Urban Studies.]

Paul Davidson (MS student)

I am originally from just outside of Washington, DC. I ventured to the Midwest for my undergraduate studies at UW-Madison, where I double majored in Economics and Environmental Studies. For my Environmental Studies Capstone project, I worked with a team on a project called, “Building Food Justice in South Madison,” where we worked to increase access to healthy food while simultaneously developing career opportunities for formerly incarcerated individuals. This sparked my interest in urban issues, and this past year I served as an AmeriCorps member with City Year Milwaukee. At UWM, I will be a part of the Milwaukee Idea Economic Development Fellows program, and I am looking forward to applying my new knowledge right away to work on economic issues in Milwaukee. [Paul will also be working as a MIED Fellow.]
**Graduate News (continued)**

**Cortney Dunklin (MS student)**

I am a Detroit native, food lover, and life-long learner. I received a dual degree in Urban and Regional Planning and Psychology from Michigan State University. In undergrad I worked as a research assistant at the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development. As a research assistant, I created community events that engaged school faculty, East Lansing residents, and students; and I led an initiative that brought 13 mayors in the state of Michigan together to brainstorm ways to improve their cities. My time in Milwaukee has been spent volunteering at environmental nonprofits and serving/working with City Year Milwaukee as an Americorps member, Senior Americorps member, and Impact Manager. As a UWM Urban Studies Graduate student, I look forward to learning more about how to improve and sustain the economic welfare of the city. [Cortney will also be working as a MIED Fellow.]

**Toni Johns (PhD student; MS alumna)**

I’ve lived most of my life in Wisconsin and I consider both Madison and Milwaukee to be my home cities. I graduated last May from UW-Milwaukee with a MS in Urban Studies. My master’s thesis examined community education policy at UW-Milwaukee during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Prior to attending graduate school full time, I was a Skills for Success Youth Workforce Coordinator with the YWCA of Southeast Wisconsin. The objective of Skills for Success was to help high school students of color living in Milwaukee prepare for careers and post-secondary education. I decided to pursue graduate school full time to study the systems that prevented the realization of the Skills for Success student’s aspirations. As a PhD student, I plan to continue my research on systems of exclusion with a focus on economic development and urbanization. I look forward to learning from and working with the excellent faculty and students in Urban Studies. With a PhD in Urban Studies I hope to engage in research, publish, and present my work at conferences. After completing my PhD, I would like to influence policy by engaging people through my research and teaching. [Toni will be one of two USP AOP Fellows this year.]

**Caitlin Taylor (Phd Student; MS alumna)**

I’m a Milwaukee-native who loves biking, running, yoga, anything involving music, and traveling the world. Over the last few months, I’ve enjoyed fixing up my first home—a 100-year-old Riverwest beauty! My sociological undergraduate studies at UW-Whitewater led me to UWM’s Urban Studies and Women’s & Gender Studies programs. My master's research focused on labor market segregation among home care workers of color in Milwaukee’s poorest neighborhoods. The Urban Studies program connected me with fair housing advocacy. I was an investigator for the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council prior to joining the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. My current work explores enforcement, program compliance, and place-based initiatives in Milwaukee's Amani neighborhood. In my non-UWM life, I served in the U.S. Air Force from 2008-2017. I was a certified sexual assault victim advocate and liaison for newer military members. I also served in Southeast Asia during Operation Enduring Freedom. I recently became a sociology adjunct instructor at Waukesha County Technical College, which allows me to teach the Introduction to Diversity course.

**Getting Your ‘Just Des[ses]erts’**

Diti Baruah (current PhD student) secured the 5th position in the individual category at the 4th UWM International Dessert Competition. Her entry was Kulfi, the traditional Indian ice cream; she received a gift basket as a prize.
Graduate News (continued)

Joshua Tegen (Phd Student)

Born and raised along the east coast of the United States, frequent visits to iconic cities such as Philadelphia, Washington D.C., New York, and Baltimore fostered my fascination with urban environments from an early age. In high school, exposure to public policy, urban planning, and political science topics cultivated my interest in urban development which led me to obtain my undergraduate degree in political science (2014) and graduate degree in public administration (2016) from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. While completing my graduate degree, I concurrently worked as an economic development specialist for the City of Oshkosh, primarily focused on industrial and commercial development. My research interests include urban development, policy, and planning, public administration and governance, and economic development. To date, I’ve conducted research examining city council conflict during the decision-making process, the regional economic impact of publicly subsidized sports facilities, and the impact of gubernatorial rule review power on urban development in Wisconsin, among other topics. I am excited to continue my education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, further develop my research capabilities, and learn from the diverse collection of students and professors in the urban studies program.

Keila Tirado-Leist (MS student)

I am originally from St. Paul, Minnesota. I graduated from UW-Stout with a BS in Technical Communication and Philosophy. There, as a McNair Scholar, I researched the effectiveness of Spanish language translation of emergency room discharge instructions. I was greatly involved in social justice initiatives on and off campus that led me to go on for my MS in Public Policy and Leadership at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, Minnesota. However, I decided to postpone my studies and began working in the medical field in clinical research and Spanish translation. I enjoyed working in that field, however, after taking time off to stay at home with my children I am now prepared to complete my educational goals. I hope to continue my research and find solutions for undeserved community members in our city. I’m looking forward to beginning the program this Fall!

Kostyn Tyksinski (MS student)

I am a graduate of Marquette University in 2010. Over the last several years I have worked overseas, spending four years in Spain, and in non-profits stateside. Currently, I work as a pianist and music director. I have a great love of learning, regardless of topic or manner. My hope is to gain an understanding of the complex challenges facing today’s disadvantaged urban communities that will guide me into an impactful career in service to said communities. [Kostyn will also be working as a PA in Urban Studies.]

The 2017 Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit is Coming Up Soon!

Please join us for the 11th Annual Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit. This year’s Milwaukee Summit theme will be “Far from the American Dream: Milwaukee’s Fair and Affordable Housing Crisis,” in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the March on Milwaukee and part of the 200 Nights of Freedom. The Milwaukee Summit will include a discussion of current housing issues and reforms from a distinguished panel of community leaders, policy experts, and decision-makers. The event will be held in the UWM Student Union Alumni Fireside Lounge on Thursday, November 16 from 4:30-6 followed by a reception. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information and updates, check our website: http://uwm.edu/urban-studies/category/milwaukee-summit/
We are Pleased to Announce the 2017 Urban Studies Award Winners

At this year’s USP Student Research Forum, two undergrads and one graduate student received the Best Poster Award: Dakota Crowell, BA student in Urban Studies, won the undergraduate award for his poster: “Spatial Patterns in Affordable Housing: An Analysis of Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Developments in Milwaukee County,” along with Trevor Jung, BA student in Urban Studies, for his poster: “Political Infrastructure for Rail Infrastructure: The Political Needs of Commuter Rail in Racine.”

Caitlin Taylor, MS student in Urban Studies, won the graduate student award for her poster: “Who Cares?: Lived Experiences of Home Care Aides in Milwaukee.”

Isabella Rieke, MS student in Urban Studies, received the Urban Studies Award for Best Paper for her paper: “We All Gotta Drink the Water: Discordant Discourses in the Remediation of Milwaukee’s Lead Service Lines.”

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 support graduate student research.

Patrick Ashwood (PhD ’91)  
Jeff Eagan (MS ’78)  
Edmund T Mazur Jr. (MS ’72)  
Kenneth Robinson (MS ’80)  
Barry Tate (BS ’63)  
Harry M. Weiner (MS ’75)  
Nancy Yttre (MS ’93)
2016-17 Major Events Recap

Fall Lecture Addressed Sports Stadium-Building and Inequality

Sean Dinces, Assistant Professor of History and Political Science at Long Beach City College and the former holder of the Alan H. Selig Chair in Sport and Society at UW-Madison, gave the talk in Greene Hall: “Why Building New Sports Stadiums Makes The Rich Richer, and the Poor Poorer.”

Major Turnout for Urban Studies Programs’ Summit on Race in Milwaukee

On November 10, more than 250 people turned out for the 10th Annual Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit at the Zelazo Center. This year’s theme was “A Frank Conversation About Race in Milwaukee.” A panel of distinguished civic and community leaders and UWM faculty discussed a number of important issues and concerns related to racial division and inequality in Milwaukee, and possible ways to address these problems. Panelists included:

Anne Bonds, UWM Associate Professor of Geography and Urban Studies; Rev. Willie Brisco of WISDOM/MICAH; Ald. Ashanti Hamilton, City of Milwaukee Common Council President; Keisha Krumm of Common Ground; and Susan Lloyd of the Zilber Family Foundation. Robert Smith, UWM Associate Professor of History and Urban Studies, moderated the event.

The theme for last year’s Milwaukee Summit came about in response to the events of August 13, 2016 in Sherman Park. Although many of these issues are familiar and have been discussed in different contexts and at different times, the focus here was to convene a panel to address an important set of questions around race, racial division and inequality in Milwaukee, and to be as “frank” and brutally honest in our assessments, but also to propose meaningful solutions. Questions posed to the panelists included:

» Do we have a serious racial problem in Milwaukee? What are the challenges?
» What does the Sherman Park unrest teach us about race in Milwaukee?
» There has been significant public and private investment in downtown Milwaukee in recent years. Has there been enough attention paid to neighborhood development?
» The Milwaukee region is frequently identified as one of the most segregated in the country. Why is that and what is being done to address that?
» The Black Lives Matter movement has focused on racial injustice in law enforcement; what are the issues in Milwaukee? Is the City of Milwaukee taking steps to improve relations between communities and the Milwaukee Police Department?
» And what is the significance of this year’s presidential election for these issues?

The full program can be viewed at: https://vimeo.com/191983148
2016-17 Major Events Recap (continued)

Urban Studies’ 22nd Annual Student Research Forum showcases student research, urban agriculture in a Milwaukee neighborhood, and scholarship on urban resiliency.

On April 28 in the UWM Student Union Alumni Fireside Lounge, Urban Studies majors enrolled in the Capstone Seminar presented their semester-long research during a juried poster session along with graduate students in Urban Studies and several other graduate programs.

Part of the afternoon included a screening of Planting Seeds, a short documentary produced by UWM film student, John Flaig, that examines the Young Farmers program in Metcalfe Park. The program was co-founded by urban studies MS student Nick DeMarsh and is supported by Groundwork Milwaukee. A talk back panel, moderated by USP PhD Candidate Renee Scampini, discussed several themes related to urban agriculture in poor neighborhoods.

Panelists included:
- Danell Cross, Interim Executive Director of Metcalfe Park Community Bridges Neighborhood Association;
- Nick DeMarsh, co-founder of the Young Farmers Program, and Urban Studies MS student;
- John Flaig, Filmmaker of the documentary, Planting Seeds;
- Deneine Powell, Executive Director of Groundwork Milwaukee

This year’s keynote speaker was Dr. Stefanie A. DeLuca, Associate Professor of Sociology at Johns Hopkins University. She is co-author (with Susan Clampet-Lundquist and Kathryn Edin) of the book, Coming of Age in the Other America (Russell Sage Foundation, 2016), which examines the lives and resiliency of children who grew up and left Baltimore public housing over a ten-year period.

Save The Dates

Urban Studies Fall Lecture

Please join us for the Urban Studies Fall Lecture, which will be held on Friday, September 15 in Greene Hall at 2pm. Our speaker is Dr. Rachel Weber, and the title of her talk is: “When and Why Do We Overbuild? Lessons from Chicago.” Dr. Rachel Weber is a Professor in the Urban Planning and Policy Department and a Faculty Fellow at the Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her latest book, From Boom to Bubble: How Finance Built the New Chicago (University of Chicago Press, 2015) received the 2017 Best Book in Urban Affairs award from the Urban Affairs Association. She will present the main arguments from her recent book on the “financialization” of urban development. This event is free and open to the public.

Join us for the 23rd Annual Student Research Forum which will be held on Friday, April 27, 2018 in the UWM Alumni Fireside Lounge.
Faculty Update

New Affiliates in Urban Studies

This fall we welcome two new affiliates: Chia Vang and Marie Sandy.

Dr. Chia Vang is a professor in the Department of History in the College of Letters and Science. Her work on refugee and immigrant communities in U.S. cities is particularly relevant for USP students. Her research interests relate to 20th century US-Asia relations, Cold War politics, Asian American history, race, gender, refugee migration, and transnational and diaspora communities. She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in Asian American history, Hmong history and culture, and refugee migration. She is the faculty director of the Hmong Diaspora Studies program and the new Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Inclusion & Engagement.

Dr. Marie Sandy is an associate professor in the Department of Educational and Community Studies in the School of Education. Her background is in community-based participatory research, community organizing, qualitative methods and ethics, and philosophy of education, with an interest in the philosophical foundations of community engaged work and grassroots approaches to social change. She teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in community organizing, community-campus partnerships, and philosophy of education, among other areas. She is also an affiliate faculty member in the School of Public Health, and takes a broad view of health that includes the socio-cultural well-being of individuals, communities and families.

Retiring this last year is long-time USP-affiliate, Dr. William Vélez, emeritus professor of sociology. Over the years Professor Vélez, whose research and scholarship focused on the sociology of education and the Latino educational experience, taught numerous graduate courses, chaired and served on many student committees, co-authored publications with former students, and contributed in numerous ways to the Urban Studies Programs. He was also actively involved in different areas of public policy as a community-engaged scholar. We thank him for his years of scholarship, teaching, and service to USP! Be sure to read the Scholar Profile interview in the Fall issue of e.polis that examines his long career.

Dr. Heather Ann Thompson to Speak on Mass Incarceration at UWM.

Sociocultural Programming and Urban Studies invite UWM students, scholars, and activists to join us as we host University of Michigan Professor and Historian Heather Ann Thompson, whose book Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy was awarded the 2017 Pulitzer Prize in History. The event will be held in the Student Union Ballroom East on Monday, November 6, from 11-1pm, and will include a Resource Fair, Keynote, and Panel Discussion. This event is free and open to UWM faculty, staff and students.

Thompson will speak about the crisis of race and mass incarceration in the U.S. today and the importance of campus activism for dismantling the prison industrial complex. A Community Resource Fair and panel discussion with local activists will help motivate and mobilize students to get involved right here in Milwaukee.

A limited number of free lunches will be offered—first come, first served!

Why does mass incarceration matter for our campus, and what can we do about it?

For more information: http://bit.ly/2wyuzpt
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In the drop-down menu, choose “College Letters & Science” and then “Urban Studies.”