

URBAN STUDIES UPDATE

Fall 2015

Newsletter for Alumni and Friends

Director's Letter

Dear USP Community,

Has it really been three years since **Amanda Seligman** handed over the USP reins to me? The time has flown by, and I'm grateful to all of you for your support, energy, and commitment to Urban Studies at UWM. I have learned a tremendous amount in this position, and it has been an honor to work with all of you. I am particularly thankful for USP's amazing staff. Associate Director, **Jamie Harris (PhD '05)**, and Program Coordinator, **Carrie Beranek**, have been excellent colleagues, who are both extremely devoted to our students and our mission. I am happy to report that **Joel Rast**, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Economic Development has agreed to take over as Director of Urban Studies. I am leaving you all in very capable hands.



Joel recently returned from spending a semester on sabbatical in Dublin, Ireland. And, speaking of Dublin, as you'll read in the newsletter, I'm excited to announce that we have established a new exchange program between students in USP and University College Dublin. As we gear up to identify the first students for the program, I ask you to consider helping to support this effort. Donations will help our students defray the cost of airfare and accommodations in Dublin. This program with UCD builds on an earlier relationship between our institutions built by Professor **Linda McCarthy**, and we hope this initiative will lead to new research partnerships and give our students opportunities to forge comparative urban projects.

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the spring semester was a particularly difficult one at UWM. The UW-System faces a \$250 million cut over the biennium, and chapter 36 (which governed tenure and shared governance) was removed from state statute and turned over to the Board of Regents. Additionally, the legislature significantly weakened tenure by changing termination policy. I do want you all to know that I worked with other UWM colleagues to advocate vociferously for UWM, and I'm deeply disappointed with the budget that the Governor signed. We now need to look ahead and prepare both for the cuts and also for what the next biennium might bring. In order to help us protect academic freedom, I helped to start a new chapter of the AAUP (American Association of University Professors) at UWM, and **Jamie Harris** was elected to the executive committee of our new chapter. I have been in close contact with the national leadership of AAUP, and they are now working with our University Committee, as well as other UW schools, to protect academic freedom. Again, your support has been crucial. The UWM administration knows that USP has a very devoted alumni base, and while no unit will be immune to the damage of this budget, your vocal support of USP helps us to protect our programs, our mission, our legacy, and most importantly, our students. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jasmine Alinder'.

Jasmine Alinder
Director, Urban Studies Programs

Professor Joel Rast will be succeeding Jasmine Alinder as Director of Urban Studies this Fall. Joel is an Associate Professor of Political Science and Urban Studies, specializing in urban development and politics. He is also the current director of the Center for Economic Development and teaches two courses regularly in Urban Studies, Research Methods in Urban Studies (urb std 921) and Urban Political Process (urb std 913). Welcome Joel!



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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/404868347649/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=6753621>



Program News from the Associate Director

First, we want to thank Urban Studies Director, **Jasmine Alinder**, for her leadership and service to Urban Studies over the last three years. There are several accomplishments of Dr. Alinder's tenure that we can point to: she safely steered the program through the treacherous waters of the last few budget years; increased USP's visibility on and off campus, as well as promoted the value of urban-focused programming and research on campus; increased our community engagement; successfully organized USP's 50th celebration year; expanded the number of affiliated faculty and broadened USP beyond Letters and Science to Public Health, Urban Planning, Architecture, Criminal Justice, and Educational Policy and Community Studies, in addition to many other accomplishments. We wish her well on her year-long sabbatical!



Jamie Harris, Associate Director and Undergraduate Studies Coordinator

This fall semester we welcome seven new Master's students (**Josh Diacula, Chris Hillard, Jane Kotchen, Wendy Stallings, Stephanie Stillwell, Jane Van Erden, and Gracie Worthen**), and three new PhD students (**Hamideh Moayyed, Nikotris Perkins, and Scott McCallum**, who joins Urban Studies as the host department for a Multidisciplinary Committee-Directed PhD degree). Our undergraduate major and certificate program continue to grow with **19 new declarations** last year.

Please join me in congratulating our Urban Studies Grads:

Undergraduate Majors (BA):

Rachel Compton, Louis Glotfelty, Maxwell Groth, Elizabeth Tryon, Angelo Vlahos, and Jonatan Zuñiga (see spotlight); **Jillian Horner** (BA Spring '14) was inadvertently omitted from the last issue.

Master of Science:

Connor Broderick (Advisor: Joel Rast): "Miller Park: An Economic Development Project"

Kari Collins (Advisor: Doug Ihrke) "What Does A Successful Immigrant/Refugee Community Engagement Model Look Like And What Does This Mean For Communities With A Growing Karen Population?"

Shannon Kelly (Advisor: Anne Bonds): "New Sheriff in (Down)town?: Business Improvement Areas in Seattle, WA, and the Regulation of Public Space"

Joy Neilson (Advisor: William Vélez): "Milwaukee's Ethnic Festivals: Creating Ethnic-American Heritage for Urban Ethnic Tourism"

Jennifer Weber (see spotlight) (Advisor: Joel Rast): "Gentrification Rhetoric in the Digital Age: Portrayals of Gentrification in Chicago's Pilsen Neighborhood"

New Exchange Program between University College Dublin and UWM's Urban Studies Programs



We're excited to announce this new exchange program between Urban Studies at UWM and the School of Geography, Planning, and Environmental Policy (GPEP) at UCD. Up to two students per semester (undergrad/grad) may participate in this new exchange program, studying at UCD, Ireland's largest university, and taking classes in GPEP while paying in-home tuition. Lecturer Eoin O'Neill of UCD's GPEP school will be our Fall Social Lecture speaker (see Save the Date blurb on p. 6.) Dr. O'Neill's talk will be focused on urban flood resilience. Please consider helping to sponsor a USP student in Dublin.





We are Pleased to Announce the 2015 Scott Greer Award Winners

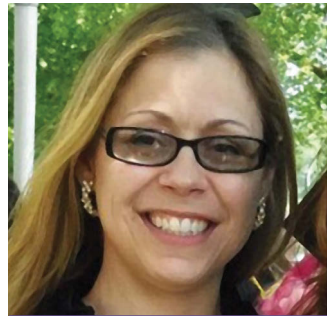


Ashley Parker

At this year's USP Student Research Forum, three awards were given out: best poster for an undergraduate and graduate student, and one award for outstanding research in urban studies based on a paper.

Undergraduate Best Poster Award: **Ashley Parker** (USP Major) for her poster: "Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's (SNAP) Impact in Food Deserts."

Graduate Best Poster Award: **Nélida Cortés** (USP PhD student) for her poster: "An Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Increased Judicial Oversight and Court-Ordered Batterer Intervention Programming in Milwaukee County Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Cases: Preliminary Findings."



Nélida Cortés



Nicholas DeMarsh

Nicholas DeMarsh (USP MS student) received the Scott Greer award for Outstanding Research in Urban Studies for his paper: "Community Mobilization in Milwaukee: Creating Critical Mass to Address the Free-Rider Problem."

Thanks to **Margaret Wilder** and the Urban Affairs Association (UAA) for providing award winners with free registration at next year's UAA conference in San Diego.

Urban Studies Abroad in Cuba!

Urban Studies certificate student, **Shawn Bost**, majors **Lloyd Brown** and **Mike Anderson**, and MS graduate student **Nick DeMarsh**, visited Cuba as part of a UWinterIM course (Understanding Cuban Urbanism in Havana) taught by Urban Studies alum, **Michael Martin** (MS '95 and PhD '03).

Lloyd Brown describes his experience: *Having the ability to travel to Cuba while the embargo is still in place was an enlightening and eye-opening experience on a number of levels.*

As an Urban Studies major, it was interesting to see how the absence of capitalism has influenced patterns of development and sustainability in Cuba, and how Cuba as a nation has done without some of the largest trade partners and financial influences in the world. Seeing a part of the world simply suspended in time was perhaps the most shocking part of the entire trip, a past time made practical in a present world. As with most, if not all cultural experiences, the best part is being able to talk to the people who call a place home, and find out what a place is actually like. The Cuban people were more than willing to talk with us, occasionally even in English. Learning about sustainability and urban society in a non-capitalist format was truly a blessing, even more so than the Caribbean during January.





Alumni Spotlight In Their Own Words

Jonatan Zuñiga, BA '15



The Urban Studies Program changed the way I view urban life. I grew up in the South Side of Milwaukee, and I know what it is to live through poverty, segregation, unsafe areas and disinvestment in public services, just like many people in Milwaukee. But the multidisciplinary approach of the Urban Studies Program gave me the tools to better understand the core of these issues. It is at the core of these issues where we will find the solutions, which is the most important thing for me.

At times it was hard for me to understand why the topics of Urban Studies 250 and 377 were so broad. Every topic was so interesting that I wished we had spent more time on every single one. By the time I took Urban Studies 600 and did my capstone on local economic development, I understood that all of the urban topics we had reviewed were connected, and I knew that if I wanted to help solve urban problems, then it was necessary for me to understand the historic, economic, political, and social aspects of these issues.

Now as the [recently hired] Community Outreach Manager at Layton Boulevard West Neighbors (LBWN), I will share my knowledge with the residents of the neighborhood to solve issues, and most importantly, to work on the assets of the neighborhood and to help them achieve their potential. My future plans involve enrolling in the Urban Planning Master's program at UWM and keep working to make every neighborhood of Milwaukee a place where people can live, work, and play.

Jennifer Weber MS '14



The best part about my two years as an Urban Studies Master's student was having the time to explore so many issues I was passionate about in-depth alongside other like-minded peers. I wrote my Master's paper on gentrification in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood, examining the conversation and information available in the digital age. I found that pro-gentrification rhetoric is prominent in mainstream digital media outlets and in online discussions. While in the program, I was also able to work with the Legacy Redevelopment Corporation (LRC), a non-profit CDFI loan fund located on the North Side of Milwaukee. At LRC, I saw the importance of providing capital to small businesses and non-profits located in low-income areas to boost neighborhoods and spur development. Post-graduation, I moved to Austin, Texas, and now work to raise funds for the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition, a non-profit advocacy organization working to reform the state's massive and ineffective criminal justice system.

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.



- Dr. Patrick G. Ashwood (PhD '91)
- Robert Brunner (former PhD Student)
- Jeff Eagan (MS '78)
- R. Barry Lovelace (MS '63)
- Edmund T. Mazur, Jr. (MS '72)
- Dr. Robert Silverman (PhD '97)
- David Somerscales (MS '98)
- Linda Sunde (MS '87)
- Harry Weiner (MS '63)
- Aaron Wolfe-Berting (MS '79)
- Nancy Yttre (MS '93)

Events Recap and Events Coming Up

Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit: Home and Garden

On November 20, 2014, over one hundred students, faculty, staff, and community members turned out to the Hefter Center for UWM's Urban Studies Programs' 8th annual Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit. This year's topic was "Home and Garden: Can Urban Agriculture Save Our Neighborhoods?" A distinguished panel discussed the significance and impact of community gardens and urban agriculture on neighborhood revitalization efforts, community-building, and food security/justice. Web clips of the Summit can be seen at the link:

<http://www4.uwm.edu/letsai/urbanstudies/mkesummit/index.cfm>



Urban Studies Multi-Author Event



On January 30th, Urban Studies Programs hosted a multi-author event at Boswell Book Company to celebrate scholarship on the city and five book publications of Urban Studies Faculty from 2014. Authors with books included:

Margo Anderson, Amanda Seligman, and Ann Graf, *Bibliography of Metropolitan Milwaukee*, (Marquette University Press, 2014)
<http://www.marquette.edu/mupress/BiblioMilwaukee.shtml>

Jenna Loyd, *Health Rights Are Civil Rights: Peace and Justice Activism in Los Angeles, 1963-1978*, (University of Minnesota Press, 2014)
<https://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/health-rights-are-civil-rights>

Genevieve G. McBride and Stephen R. Byers (PhD '04), *Dear Mrs. Griggs': Women Pour Out Their Hearts in the Heartland*, (Marquette

University Press, 2014) http://www.marquette.edu/mupress/DSMCO4_Mrs_Griggs.shtml

Joe Rodriguez, *Bootstrap New Urbanism: Design, Race, and Redevelopment in Milwaukee* (Lexington, 2014)
<https://rowman.com/ISBN/9780739186121>

Arijit Sen and Lisa Silverman, eds., *Making Place: Space and Embodiment in the City*, (Indiana University Press, 2014)
http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/product_info.php?products_id=807119

20th Annual Student Research Forum

This year's Urban Studies Student Research Forum was held at the Zilber School of Public Health on April 18, 2015. The Forum included a poster session and luncheon along with concurrent paper sessions. Topping off the day was the screening of WPTV's new documentary "Vel Phillips: Dream Big Dreams" followed by a talk back with the Metropolitan Milwaukee Fair Housing Council, led by **William Tisdale** (MS '98), and Carla Wertheim.

(cont. on page 6)



Urban Studies Student Research Forum



(cont. from page 5)

Book Launch Party

On April 24th, Professor **Jennifer Jordan** (Sociology/Urban Studies) discussed her new book, *Edible Memory: The Lure of Heirloom Tomatoes and Other Forgotten Foods*, to a packed house at Boswell Book Company in Milwaukee. To quote from one reviewer: “Jordan, who has done exemplary research on how memory shaped modern Berlin, is perfectly situated to examine the emotion work and emotion play we lavish on what we grow, seek, and put into our mouths. Jordan is working in some of the most vital areas in cultural sociology: theoretically, a sociology of materiality and sensory experience; substantively, food studies and cognitive sociology; methodologically, interweaving of the micro-historical (personal) with the macro-historical (developments in agriculture, consumerism, nationalism). This is an important book.” –Wendy Griswald, Northwestern University



Jennifer Jordan

<http://www.press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/E/bo19503009.html>



David Simon (center with hat) with USP faculty and students

Distinguished Lecture Series

One highlight of last Spring was the Distinguished Lecture Series talk by David Simon. Simon is an author and the television producer of *The Wire* and *Treme* among other

productions and writings. His talk, titled “The Audacity of Despair: The Decline of the American Empire, and What’s in it for You,” was given to an overflow crowd of 600. After the talk, several USP students and faculty took him out to Bryant’s Cocktail Lounge for a taste of Milwaukee’s Southside.

Save the Dates!

Urban Studies Fall Social and Lecture, Wednesday, October 7th at 2pm – AUP 110

Come join us to celebrate the start of the school year. University College Dublin Lecturer in the School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy, Eoin O’Neill, will present, “Beyond Katrina: Strategies for Achieving Urban Flood Resilience,” as part of USP’s Fall Social and Lecture. (see UCD exchange program on p.2)



Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit, November 19th at 4PM – UWM Hefter Center

Please join us for the 9th Annual Henry W. Maier State of Milwaukee Summit, Topic: Growing Inequality in Milwaukee. A distinguished panel of civic leaders and academic scholars will discuss the sources of growing inequality, how Milwaukee compares to other cities and metro regions, and what programs or policies might help reduce inequality. Hope to see you at the Summit!



Student Research Forum, April 30, 2016 – UWM Alumni Fireside Lounge





Student News

Ditimoni Baruah and husband Maitreya welcomed the birth of their daughter on August 16th. For now she is being called Gia until they decide on her official name.

Meghan McDonald and Rachael Carlson were married August 8, 2015.

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CONGRATULATIONS!!
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Scott Letteney presented “Documenting the Nature and Extent of Municipal Court Powers in the United States” (co-authored by **Prof. Doug Ihrke**) at the Midwest Public Affairs Conference, UWM, Milwaukee Wisconsin, (July 2015).

Ashkan Rezvani Naraghi presented “Imagined Spaces: 19th Century Iranian Travelogues from Europe and the Construction of a New Spatial Consciousness” at the Symposia Iranica Conference at Downing College, University of Cambridge, UK. (April 2015).

Mark Rice was interviewed on the “Devil’s Advocates Radio Show” in Madison on 92.1 FM, and “The Grass is Greener” Show on Riverwest Radio to discuss crimeless revocations in Wisconsin and the need for reform. Mark was also quoted in an article in the *Daily Beast*, “Scott Walker is Clueless about Jails” (June 8, 2015).

Kari Smith presented a different paper at each of the following conferences: Urban Affairs Association Conference - Miami, FL (April 2015), the 43rd Annual Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) Conference - Denver, Colorado (November 2014), and the 2014 International Planning History Society Conference - St. Augustine, Florida (July 2014). She also authored a Public Policy Forum report on planning commissions. The report can be accessed at: <http://publicpolicyforum.org/research/who-what-and-how-plan-commissions-southeast-wisconsin>

Ron Smith was a panelist for the “What’s News? Knowledge & the Digital Age” episode of the 4th Street Forum that first aired on November 7th, 2014. He is also now the new Deputy Managing Editor in charge of news and production for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

Faculty News

Associate Professor and Urban Studies Director **Jasmine Alinder** was named Community-Engaged Faculty of the Year (along with Associate Professor Elizabeth Drame).

Professor **Marc Levine** was interviewed on UWM’s *Lake Effect* regarding the recent study he authored, “Zipcode 53206”; Levine was also quoted in a *New York Times* article, “Health Problems Take Root in a West Baltimore Neighborhood that is Sick of Neglect,” and had two editorials published in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, one on the failure of economic development in Baltimore and Milwaukee (“The Failure of Economic Development in Baltimore – and Milwaukee,” May 22, 2015), and the other on the Wisconsin economy (“Here are the Facts on the Wisconsin Economy,” May 11, 2015).

Alumni News

Ruben Anthony (PhD ’10) was named CEO of the Greater Madison Urban League.

Tyler Armbruster (BA ’13) had an editorial published in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* (“City can attract Millennials,” Dec. 7, 2014).

Congratulations to Assistant Professor **Jennifer Fink** (PhD ’14). Jennifer accepted an assistant professor position in the Dept. of Health Informatics and Administration in the College of Health Sciences at UWM.

Recent grad, **Joy Neilson** (MS ’15), accepted a position as Community Engagement Coordinator for the UWM Zilber School of Public Health.

William Tisdale (MS ’98), along with Richard Rothstein, was a guest on the Kathleen Dunn Show, “How the U.S. Government Created Ghettos,” on June 24, 2015.

Jennifer Weber (MS ’14), accepted a position as Development Coordinator at Texas Criminal Justice Coalition in Austin, Texas.

Nichole Yunk (MS ’09) was quoted in Jim Stingl’s *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* column (May 12, 2015) regarding unlicensed drivers in Milwaukee; Yunk is the Policy and Research Director of Wisconsin Community Services that runs a license recovery center. She also spoke on the Kathleen Dunn Show, “The High Cost of Driver’s License Suspensions,” on August 16, 2015.

Jonatan Zuñiga (BA ’15) accepted a position as the Community Outreach Manager at Layton Boulevard West Neighbors (LBWN).





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