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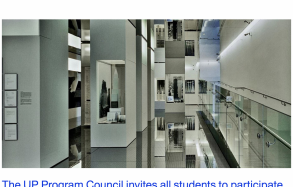
# URBAN PLANNING NEWSLETTER MARCH 2, 2018

Contributions or ideas for this newsletter can be submitted to Nicholas Johannes. Newsletters will be sent on a bi-weekly basis. For jobs, internships, and fellowships, please see career portal.

## UP PROGRAM COUNCIL'S SOCIAL EVENTS



The UP Program Council invites all students to participate in a number of FREE social events listed below.

For some of the events, there will be a lottery since there is a cap on the number of students who can participate. No preference will be given based on seniority.

- Museum of the City of New York, Saturday, March 3rd at 2 pm
- Skyscraper Museum, Sunday, March 11th at 2 pm
- Tenement Museum, Building on the Lower East Side Walking Tour, Saturday, March 24th at 11 am
- New York City Fire Museum, Saturday, March 25th at 12 pm
- New-York Historical Society, Saturday, March 31st at 2 pm
- New York City Transit Museum, Saturday, April 7th at 1 pm
- Central Park Bike Tour, Saturday, April 14th at 2 pm

In addition, the UP Program Council is also helping organize cultural lunches and dinners. Please sign-up to host dinner or lunch! The host will pick the place and make the reservation to show other students local, traditional food from their home countries.

## HEALTH EQUITY: SHAPING JUST SOCIETIES, MARCH 23RD

Health Equity: Shaping Just Societies presents efforts from the global to the local focused on addressing health inequities. Panelists highlight the ways in which institutions, policies, programs, and practices at multiple scales are working to achieve health equity through urban planning and public health practices. Keynote lecture by Jason Corburn, Professor of City & Regional Planning, UC Berkeley, followed by panel discussion. Panelists include:

- Nupur Chaudhury '11 MPH, Program Officer, New York State Health Foundation
- Malo Hutson, Associate Professor in Urban Planning, Columbia GSAPP
- Mandu Sen, Program Manager, Regional Plan Association

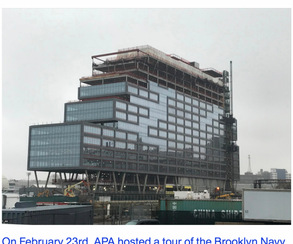
Moderated by Justin Garrett Moore '04 MSAUD, Executive Director, New York City Public Design Commission, and Adjunct Associate Professor, Columbia GSAPP. More info

## UP CAREER WEEK

On February 23rd, students participated in the Alumni Networking Evening session at the Faculty House, which was the last event organized for the UP Career Week. In a speed networking format, alumni met with small groups of students to share their experiences since graduating from GSAPP.

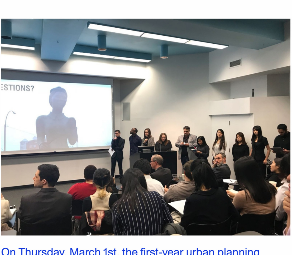
We would like to thank all the students, alumni, and employers who participated in our career week programming last month. We hope that you will follow up on current and future job opportunities and keep in touch with the connections you made. Please feel free to contact Margaret Wiryaman if you'd like any help with your resume, LinkedIn Profile, or applications throughout the semester.

## APA BROOKLYN NAVY YARD TOUR



On February 23rd, APA hosted a tour of the Brooklyn Navy Yard given by Andrew Gustafson of Turnstile Tours. The hour and a half tour took students by bus through the Navy Yard site and went over the history of the yards. The tour covered the sites use throughout World War II, its cycles of renovation and disuse, and its current renaissance as an industrial job center and home to Steiner Studios. Students were able to see Dock 72, the historic dry docks which still operate to repair ships, and the recently renovated Building 77 which will be open to the public later this year. The tour ended with a happy hour at the Kings County Distillery tasting room at the edge of the Navy Yard site.

## STUDIO MIDTERM REVIEWS

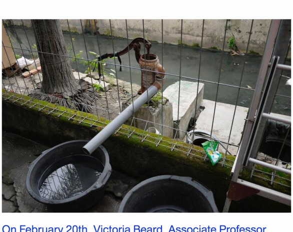


On Thursday, March 1st, the first-year urban planning students presented their midterm studio projects. The students demonstrated their understanding of the salient planning issues of their study area. Each team had 30 minutes to present followed by questions from the urban planning faculty. The students are engaged in the studio below.

- Genoa, Italy: Negotiating Fragments
- Transformational Waterfront Planning in Brooklyn & Queens
- Hong Kong as a Palimpsest: Transit-Induced Redevelopment in To Kwa Wan
- Creating a Pilot Emergency Toolkit for Gowanus Community for NYC 2019 Hazard Mitigation Plan
- The Global Campus
- Neighborhood Change, Displacement, and Health

Students participating in the international studio trips will be traveling this spring break. We are excited to see the next part of their project.

## FEBRUARY 20TH LIPS RECAP



On February 20th, Victoria Beard, Associate Professor, Cornell University, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, gave a lecture titled, "Meeting Everyone's Water Needs in Cities in the Global South."

*Victoria Beard, with the World Resources Institute, is working on the current World Resources Report about global access to water. The report seeks to answer the question,"Does equitable access to urban water make cities more economically productive and environmentally sustainable?" The goal of the report is also to provide actionable solutions for "urban change agents" such as mayors, private developers, and non-governmental organization.*

*There is a knowledge gap in our understanding of access to water and the seriousness of this issue. The standard for improved water as defined by the UN Sustainable Development Goals is inadequate for an urban context because they do not consider regularity quality and affordability. Seven hundred million urban dwellers lack water. In developed nations, 47 percent of the population lack access to safe water. Access to affordable water is most easily improved in Latin America. It is most challenging to address the same issue in cities in South Asia and Africa. Treating water as a private commodity instead of a public good or a social good is at the heart of the problem. There are some short and medium-term strategies that water utility institutions can take to extend access and address affordability. Upgrading informal settlement is a proven method for addressing basic service needs of low-income households.* - Emily Junker (M.S. UP '19)

## FIRST-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

*Ashley Reeb Esparza*

**Where are you from?**
I grew up in a swampy liberal pocket of Florida called Gainesville and moved to New York in my late 20s.

**What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?**
My move to New York completely changed my perspective on life. After years of being a professional hairdresser and supporting my little sister, I realized that I could finally pursue my academic interests. So, after a grueling battle against the SATs and the application process, I attended The School of General Studies at Columbia University and majored in Architecture.

**Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?**
My experiences at Columbia as an undergrad were transformative in helping me to understand how our built environment affects societies at every scale and how we must take responsibility for designing that built environment for the benefit of everyone. As an undergrad, I had the privilege to take seminar courses at GSAPP, and I became inspired by the faculty, curriculum and pedagogy of the school. I saw Urban Planning at GSAPP as a natural extension to my interests working towards a more equitable future.

**What is your interest in the urban planning field?**
I am interested in continuing to explore the intersections of architecture and planning with issues of institutionalized discrimination, mass incarceration, corporate influence, public sector austerity and new technologies. With an eye to critical analysis of our current political systems, I see planning as a way to affect positive change by designing processes that draw from communicative planning theory.

**What is your dream career?**
My dream career would be to work with other planning, architecture and radical spatial theorists to work on innovative approaches to social and political engagement through design.

**Tell me something that most people don't know about you.**
I have a freaky looking chihuahua mutt name Don Quixote and a beautiful geriatric chihuahua name Suki.

## SECOND-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

*Alexander "Alex" Gallo*

**Where are you from?**
Middle Village, Queens, New York

**What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?**
Economics at Hunter College

**Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?**
I wanted to stay in New York and at the same be exposed to the different paths planners can take and Columbia met that criteria better than any school.

**What has been your favorite urban planning class so far and why?**
Sustainable Zoning and Land Use Planning have to be my favorite planning classes so far. The exposure to policies and seeing how they affect the real world, especially when things don't go as planned was interesting and a very good learning experience.

**What is your interest in the urban planning field? What is your concentration?**
My interests have been leaning more towards affordable housing as well as economic development. My concentrations are in the Built Environment and Economic Development.

**What is your dream career?**
I'm not entirely sure on the title that this job would have, but the ability to convince people to invest in neighborhoods and cities that need it most would be what my dream career.

**What is one advice that you have for the first-years?**
Planning is a very broad field that branches out into different caresses. Focus on what interests you and where you could see yourself working in the future, don't worry too much about the rest.

*Jiaohong "Crystal" Du*

**Where are you from?**
Beijing

**What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?**
I studied Economics and Urban Planning at the University of Southern California

**Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?**
In my undergrad, Martin Krieger, my first urban planning professor, introduced me to the exciting world of planning. He recommended that I read *The Power Broker,* which speaks to the evolution of urban planning in New York City as shaped by Robert Moses. The Power Broker sparked my strong interest and passion in the planning profession. I also learned that the two planning professionals, Martin Krieger and Robert Moses, were educated at Columbia University.

**What has been your favorite urban planning class so far and why?**
The Chinatown Studio and the Transit-Oriented Development classes were my two favorites. Both classes provided engagement opportunities with developers, city agency professionals, Community Board leaders, the Borough President, and other professionals who are actively influencing the planning industry. Through these classes, I felt greater responsibility to engage with critical issues facing the city we live in.

**What is your interest within the urban planning field? What is your concentration?**
I am interested in the design of the built environment design and infrastructural planning. Recently, I was studying land value capture mechanisms, which is a method for funding infrastructural improvements.

**What is your dream career?**
Working for my country's planning commission.

**What is one advice that you have for the first-years?**
You are what you do. Be yourself and accept yourself.

## FELLOWSHIP

**Kresge Health Philanthropy Fellow, Application Deadline: March 5th**
The Kresge Foundation's Health Program has an immediate opening for a Health Philanthropy Fellow who will serve a two year term. The Health Philanthropy Fellow will support the Health Program in implementing its mission to create equity-focused systems. The fellow will gain experience and insight into institutional philanthropy, health policy and advocacy, community development and strategies to improve the health of historically disadvantaged or disenfranchised communities. We are also interested in candidates who have completed joint degrees involving public health and urban planning, public administration, public policy, health administration, social work and/or environmental science. More info

**Social Enterprise Summer Fellowships, Application Deadline: March 15th**
The Tamer Center for Social Enterprise supports the Social Enterprise Summer Fellowship Program, a unique and exciting opportunity for students to apply what they're learning in the classroom with an organization making social change in the world. Graduate students in good academic standing may apply for funding for a 6- to 10-week, full-time summer internship (at least 35 hours/week) with a social venture or social entrepreneurship-focused organization in the US or abroad, provided that the internship has been secured and accepted at the time of application. The Social Enterprise Summer Fellowship Program contributes a $200 to $600 per week stipend to assist with expenses associated with the internship to summer fellows, depending on the availability of funds. More info

**Morgan Stanley Graduate Community Development Fellowship, Application Deadline: March 30th**
The Morgan Stanley Graduate Fellowship for Community Development Program provides an opportunity for nine Master's Degree students to take a significant role in a high-impact, community-based project targeting a low- and moderate-income neighborhood. Fellows will receive a $20,000 stipend to serve in a part-time (20 hours a week), ten month (September 1st – June 30th) internship in a neighborhood-based community development corporation (the host organization). Projects may be in the fields of affordable housing, economic development, or community planning. If you have any questions about it, feel free to contact Stephanie Sosa at Stephanie.S@anhd.org or former fellow Melanie Breault at Melanie.B@anhd.org. More info

## OTHER NEWS

**Paid Research Study on Wheelchair Access in Public Spaces and Transit**
Professor of Sociology and Affiliate Professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania Ross Koppel is conducting a study of public transit accessibility for people with wheelchairs and walkers. He is seeking a few graduate students who can help with this research. The study focuses on people using wheeled mobility devices and other mobility aids (e.g., wheelchairs and walkers). The work will require participants to travel on public transportation to various sites around the city at different times of day and to observe and evaluate targeted sites with elevators. More info

**Agrarian Elites in Urban Real Estate: Urban and Land Transformations along New Economic Corridors in Liberalizing India, March 5th**
Professor Sai Balakrishnan will be exploring the narrative movements of urbanization in contemporary India from megacities to the contested geographies along new economic corridors. As policymakers search for new market-oriented means for the transfer of land from agrarian constituencies to infrastructural promoters and urban developers, the re-allocation of property control is erupting into volatile land-based social conflicts. More info

**Film Screening and Conversation Of Lost Rondout: A Story of Urban Removal, March 5th, 6.30 pm at Wood Auditorium**
Lost Rondout, a 69-minute documentary directed and produced by Lynn Woods and Stephen Blauweiss, chronicles how a federally funded 1960s urban renewal project devastated the waterfront district of Kingston, New York, a microcosm of the urban destruction that occurred all over America with particularly devastating consequences for small cities. Nearly 500 buildings were destroyed, and thousands of people were displaced, many of them African Americans who had difficulty finding new housing. Following the film, co-producer and co-director Lynn Woods will join Ben Schulman, Outreach Director, Small Change, for a discussion on urban renewal in the Hudson Valley. More info

**GSAPP Incubator Open Sessions. Cassim Shepard - Citymakers: The Culture and Craft Of Practical Urbanism, March 6th**
In Citymakers, Cassim Shepard offers a vivid survey of how urbanism today is no longer the domain of just planners, politicians, and power brokers removed from the effects of their decisions, but an array of citizens working at the vanguard of increasingly diverse practices, from community gardeners to architects to housing advocates. More info

**Projects in Planning: New York Public Library Mid-Manhattan Library Renovation, March 6th**
Open House New York will host Projects in Planning: New York Public Library Mid-Manhattan Library Renovation, a special presentation about the renovation plans for NYPL's largest circulating branch with Iris Weinshall, Chief Operating Officer, The New York Public Library; Francine Houben, Founding Partner/Creative Director, Mecanoo Architecten, and Elizabeth Leber, Partner, Beyer Blinder Belle. The presentation will be held at the SVA Theatre at 333 West 23rd Street at 7 pm. More info

**Taking the Plunge: Learning from Leaders on Starting a Business, March 7th**
Architecture, urban design, planning, preservation, and real estate are all entrepreneurial professions, and many GSAPP alumni have gone on to start their own businesses. The GSAPP Alumni Board is committed to developing professional development programming that brings experts and leaders in the field to present to our alumni. The panel discussion will include:

- Jonie Fu '86 MSAUD, Partner, Fu Wilmers Design
- Jesse Wark '07 MSRED, Founding Principal, Avery Hall Investments
- Dominic Leong '03 MSAAD, Partner, Leong Leong
- Mary Jablonski '90 MSHP, Founder, Jablonski Building Conservation, Inc. More info

**Design Earth, March 7th, 4 pm at Wood Auditorium**
Design Earth in conversation with Tei Carpenter and David Eugin Moon. Organized by Tei Carpenter and David Benjamin as a part of Advanced Studio IV in conjunction with the Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture's "Power: Infrastructure in America" research initiative, with Kadambari Baxi and Karen Fairbanks for Barnard's "Environmental Visualizations of NYC" seminar and David Eugin Moon for GSAPP's "Speculative City" seminar. More info

**Parallel Event on Land Rights and Rural Women at the 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, March 14th**
Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment (CCSI) , together with Action Aid-Nairobi, the International Land Coalition, GROOTS Kenya, Landesa, the Rights and Resources Initiative, and Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resources Management, invites you to join a panel discussion on "Roots of Empowerment: Land Rights to Rural Women," a parallel event at the 62nd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62). The event will take place from 2:30 to 4:00 pm on March 14, on the Second Floor of the Church Center of the United Nations (777 United Nations Plaza, New York). Participants must be registered for CSW62 in order to attend. More info

**Data Science Day @ Columbia University, March 28th**
The Data Science Institute is soliciting demos and posters from all CU faculty and their students to be shown at our upcoming Data Science Day @ Columbia University. The audience will be mainly people from industry and government interested in learning more about research going on at the Institute. We are excited to showcase our research through demos and posters to generate industry enthusiasm prompting further engagement with the Institute. Submissions selected for presentation will receive FREE admission to the event. More info

**24rd IFHP Urban Planning and Design Summer School, Application Deadline: April 13th**
Summer School is based on intensive workshops taking place in two case study cities. Participants will be invited to explore the theme "Making, Shaping or Letting Be", focusing on diversifying monofunctional urban zones. First they engage in an individual analytic task, and then develop the ideas to an urban planning and design solution as a group work in one of the two case-cities. The projects will be developed in a semi-realistic manner, in interaction with practicing planners and experts of planning education and research. In addition, there will be lectures on the theme and a one-day study trip to both historic and new neighbourhoods of Helsinki. The course will be held from August 13th to 24th. More info

**AICP Candidate Pilot Program**
Students and recent graduates of PAB-accredited programs can now enroll in the Program any time during the year, register in December–March (for the May exam) or in June–September (for the November exam), use the payment program for exam fees, and take the exam prior to earning professional planning experience. More info

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