

URBAN PLANNING NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 19, 2021

As we rapidly approach the midpoint of this semester, make sure to take care of your [physical and mental well-being](#). Dr. Aisha Holder, Clinical Psychologist at Columbia Health, [shared valuable advice](#) in the last University's COVID-19 Forum. Practice gratitude and self compassion, don't be afraid to reach out for help, and look after your friends and family.

If you plan on traveling over spring break, please be aware of the University's [travel policy](#) and [register for travel](#) for the safety of everyone in our community.

Contributions or ideas for the newsletter can be submitted to Elaine Hsieh and Geon Woo Lee using this [form](#). Feel free to share any news regarding events, class projects, jobs/internships, scholarships/fellowships, and academic related student updates.

PROGRAM UPDATE

PhD student Jenna Davis published a [research paper](#), "How do upzonings impact neighborhood demographic change? Examining the link between land use policy and gentrification in New York City," in *Land Use Policy* this week.

Join the Private Sector Alumni Panel tonight at 7pm with MSUP alumni Eri Furusawa ('18), Senior Analyst at HR&A Advisors, Charlie Romanow ('18), Transportation Planner at WSP, and Kovid Saxena ('04), Director of Environmental Planning at Sam Schwartz, for a lively discussion about working in the private sector.

Second year students, please join the Studio Midterm presentations on next Friday, February 26 from 9 AM to 1 PM to celebrate the progress of first year students.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION UPDATES

Program Council

EVENT POSTPONED DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS. Program Council's first in-person event originally planned today will be postponed until further notice. We still intend on screening [The Mayor \(2020\)](#) at a later time. We apologize for the short notice.

LatinGSAPP

Latin GSAPP is excited to announce the collaboration with Yale NOMAS in Latinx Features: Spring '21 Roundtable Series. Students are invited to participate in the ["Agency in Architecture"](#) event on Tuesday, February 23 at 6:30 PM.

Panelists: [Andriana Chávez](#), [Enrique Walker](#), [Elisa Iturbe](#)
Moderators: Alice Fang (LatinGSAPP), [Guillermo Acosta Navarrete](#) (Yale NOMAS) and [Gabriel Gutierrez Huerta](#) (Yale NOMAS)

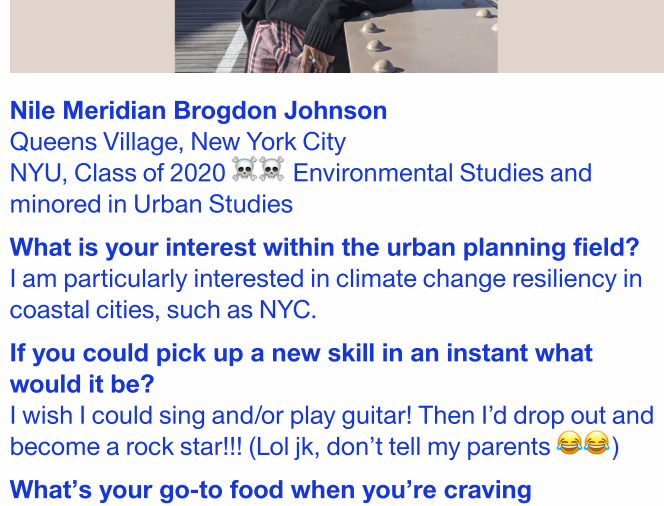
APA Student Representative Committee

APA-NYM SRC invites students to join for their [Spring 2021 Virtual Q&A with a Leader Series](#), connecting [planning students in the NY metro area](#) with a variety of seasoned planning professionals ("Leaders"). Students from all planning programs across the New York metro area are welcome to attend.

Friday, February 26th, 3:00 PM - Q&A with Jackson Chabot, Open Plans

Friday, March 26th, 3:00 PM - Q&A with Tara Pham, Numina

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Nile Meridian Brogdon Johnson

Queens Village, New York City
NYU, Class of 2020 🐼🐼 Environmental Studies and minored in Urban Studies

What is your interest within the urban planning field?

I am particularly interested in climate change resiliency in coastal cities, such as NYC.

If you could pick up a new skill in an instant what would it be?

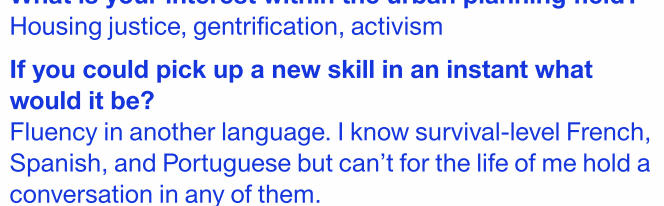
I wish I could sing and/or play guitar! Then I'd drop out and become a rock star!!! (Lol jk, don't tell my parents 😂😂)

What's your go-to food when you're craving something?

It's not my go-to food per se, but it is an extreme comfort food: sweet cornbread with milk. Pretty sure it's a southern thing, my parents make it for me 😊

What TV shows are you currently binging?

I have to say, I am an anime fan, always have been. Over the summer I binged Dorohedoro and Brand New Animal, and recently started Jujutsu Kaisen, and am fairly obsessed 😍😍😍 However, my cousin has gotten me into Law and Order: SVU recently, which is quite binge-able



Derek Brennan

St. Louis, MO, USA
Earlham College, Sociology & Anthropology

What is your interest within the urban planning field?

Housing justice, gentrification, activism

If you could pick up a new skill in an instant what would it be?

Fluency in another language. I know survival-level French, Spanish, and Portuguese but can't for the life of me hold a conversation in any of them.

What's your favorite city you've ever visited, and why?

Hong Kong. There are so many nooks and niches in the city to discover, like arcades, night markets, and cha chaan teng restaurants. And of course, impeccable public transit.

What's your go-to food when you're craving something?

My diet in general is almost exclusively made up of the different deli sandwiches I crave throughout the day. Top 3 are: BLT, pastrami & swiss, and bacon, egg & cheese

UPCOMING GSAPP EVENTS

2021 Fitch Colloquium The Art of Preservation: Engaging and Amplifying Underrepresented Heritage

12PM, Friday, February 19

The 2021 Fitch Colloquium, co-sponsored by the Historic Preservation Program at GSAPP and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will explore the intersection of art and preservation. The symposium convenes BIPOC artists who integrate heritage – and all its sociopolitical implications today – into their works.

LiPS: International Planning in Addressing Urban Inequities

1:15 PM, Tuesday, February 23

Join the weekly LiPS lecture series next Tuesday, featuring a [panel discussion](#) among Professor [Kate Owens](#), Aline Rahbany, Urban Programming Technical Director at World Vision International, and Samer Saliba, Head of Practice at the Mayors Migration Council.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

A Conversation with Bill Gates: How to Avoid a Climate Disaster

2:30 PM, Tuesday, February 23

Join SIPA's Center on Global Energy Policy for a conversation with [Bill Gates](#) about his new book, what he's learned about this complex and far-reaching challenge, and why he remains hopeful that we can overcome climate change. Advance registration required.

The 15-Minute City

12 PM, Thursday, February 25

The Municipal Art Society of New York hosts a keynote presentation with [Professor Carlos Moreno](#), Special Envoy for Smart Cities for Mayor Anne Hidalgo of Paris, followed by a conversation with [Jarrett Murphy](#), Executive of City Limits.

The Kind of Opportunity a Post-COVID City is

4 PM, Wednesday, February 24

Join The Center for the Living City in a conversation with [New York Times architecture critic Michael Kimmelman](#) and [journalist Roberta Brandes Gratz](#). In a one-hour virtual discussion, with audience Q&A, they'll explore the outlook for cities post-pandemic.

NYC Roundtable: Improving Business through Open Space

7 PM, February 25, 2021

NYC's Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) have deployed creative strategies to help businesses stay afloat during this period by utilizing open space to promote business activity. Join for a panel discussion on whether utilizing open space has helped improve [business activity within BIDs](#).

Reconstructions: Architecture and Blackness in America (MoMA)

February 27 - May 31

Next weekend, the MoMA opens a new exhibition, [Reconstruction: Architecture and Blackness in America](#), exploring the relationship between architecture and the spaces of African American and African diaspora communities. GSAPP Professor [Mabel O. Wilson](#) co-curated this exhibition.

Congress for New Urbanism 29th Annual Congress

May 19 - 21

Registration is open for [CNU 29: Design for Change](#). This year's Congress is fully virtual and runs from May 19 - 21, 2021. The Early Bird student rate is the best deal of any Congress registration price in decades with student rates starting at \$50 through March 7.

WHAT WE'RE READING

Post COVID Urbanism: The New York Times examines and chronicles many ongoing attempts to [rethink and revitalize spaces of European cities](#).

Midtown Development: Architecture firm SOM recently revealed [renderings for Project Commodore](#), located adjacent to Grand Central station and currently undergoing the ULURP process.

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