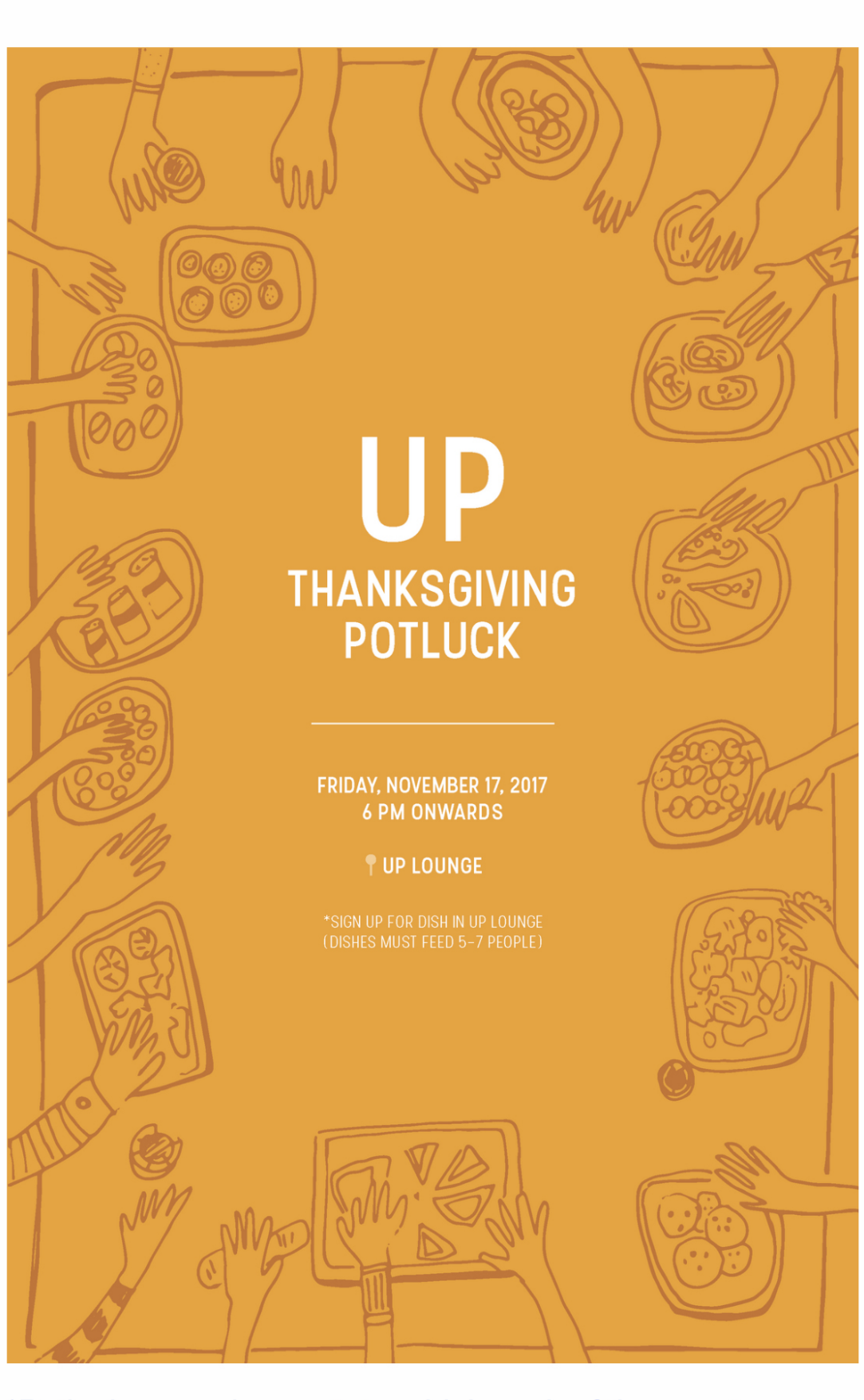
COLUMBIA
GSAPP
URBAN
PLANNING

URBAN PLANNING NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 10, 2017

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.

I am also collecting submissions for the semester newsletter. Submissions can include reflections of your fall semester internship to advanced studio trips that you participated.

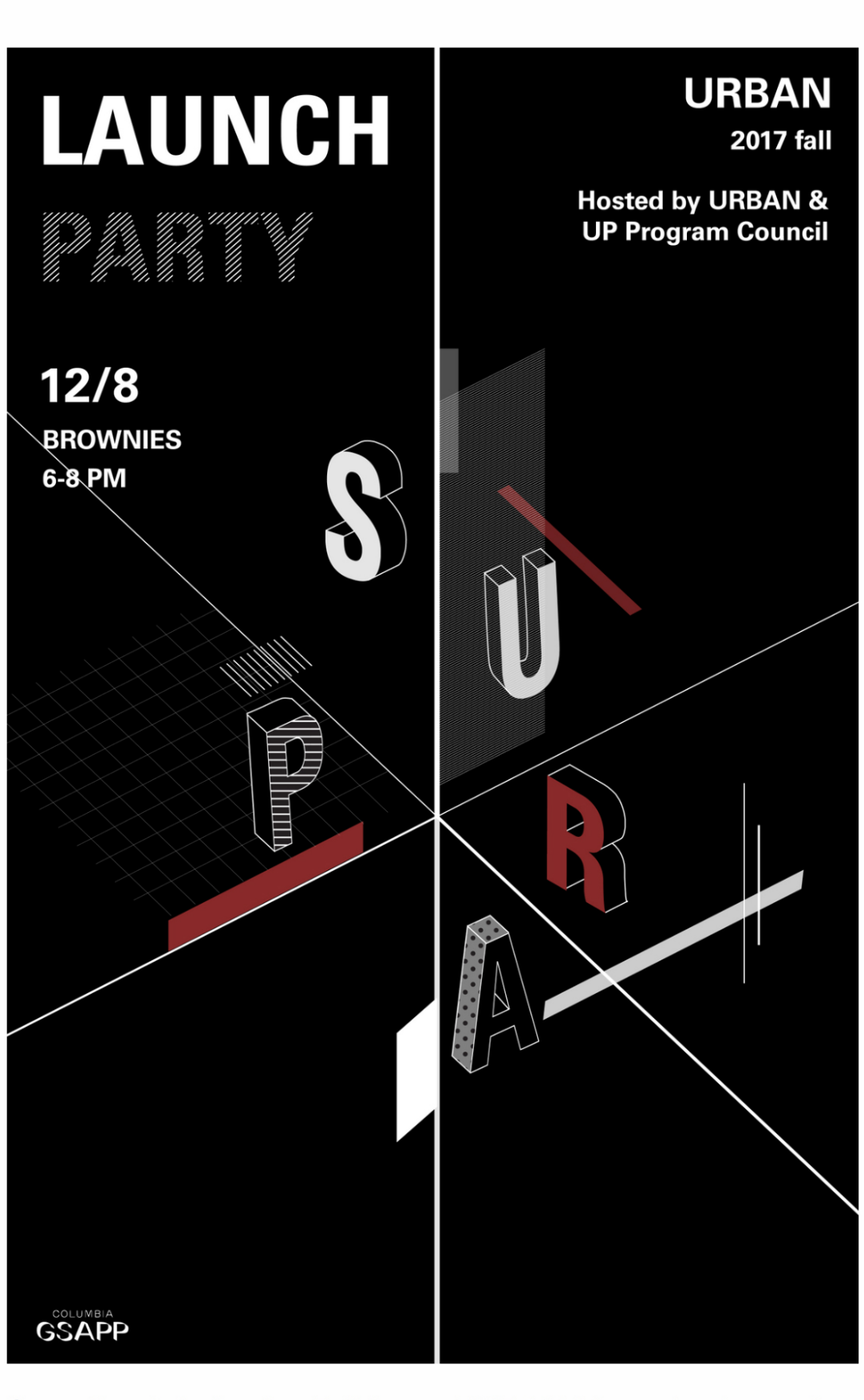
SAVE THE DATE THANKSGIVING POTLUCK DINNER


UP
THANKSGIVING
POTLUCK
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2017
6 PM ONWARDS
UP LOUNGE
*SIGN UP FOR DISH IN UP LOUNGE
(DISHES MUST FEED 5-7 PEOPLE)

*Potluck: a meal or party to which each of the guests contributes a dish.

Please join fellow students in the UP Lounge on **Friday, November 17th at 6 pm** for a Potluck Thanksgiving Dinner! Family, friends, and kids are all invited! Every student must bring a dish or dessert that feeds 4 to 6 people. Dish sign-up sheet has been posted in the UP lounge.

SAVE THE DATE: LAUNCH PARTY



Save the date for the Fall Issue URBAN Magazine Launch Party, on **Friday, December 8th**! Together with your Program Council, we invite you for a night to de-stress and play some games, and take home our most recent issue! We will be serving food and drinks as well.

Faculty, PhD students and alumni are invited!

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Sean Nelsen

Where are you from?
Denver, Colorado

What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
Business Management at the University of Colorado, Boulder

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
I chose Columbia University because I wanted to study planning in the preeminent urban environment of New York City. I was allured by the Urban Analytics concentration as well as the international focus supported by the department. The programs' rigor in addressing urban challenges is clear in the course quality, departmental events, and diverse faculty.

What is your interest in the urban planning field?
I am interested in the intersection of housing, migration, and social justice. I would like to investigate how the US can implement urban theories from developing countries to alter our housing policy. I would also like to study forced migration in an effort to imagine interventions for refugee safety on dangerous migration routes, as well as their integration into arrival cities.

What is your dream career?
I would like to work for an international development aid agency, while being conscious of the limitations and deficiencies of Western planning prescriptions for developing nations. I would also like to work for a firm/government agency that focuses on domestic poverty alleviation.

Tell me something that most people don't know about you.
I lived in a mountain town (Telluride, CO) for a year where I tuned skis, taught skiing, and coached a youth hockey team.

SECOND-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Melinda Martinus

Where are you from?
Jakarta, Indonesia

What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
Urban Studies, Universitas Tarumanagara Jakarta

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
It's in New York! "The skyline of New York is a monument of a splendor that no pyramids or palaces will ever equal or approach." – Ayn Rand

What has been your favorite urban planning class so far and why?
FUDD has been my favorite so far. The class triggers our creativity and imagination.

What is your interest in the urban planning field? What is your concentration?
My concentration is international planning and development. I have always been fascinated with planning practices in Asian metropolis.

What is your dream career?
A career that allows me to travel frequently, meet new people, and learn new languages.

What is one advice that you have for the first-years?
If you feel the assignments, reading tasks, and group projects overwhelm you, take a break! Get a cup of coffee, grab a huge gelato, have a special dinner with your friends.

Tatiana Marie Kopelman Martin

Where are you from?
Cozumel, Mexico

What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
I studied Urbanism at UNAM, the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
I chose Columbia University because I fell in love with the now defunct Latin Lab. While visiting schools, I met Clara Irazabal and was enamored by her passion towards LATAM planning. Also, my mom's family are all from Woodlawn so I liked being nearby, and finally, because NYC is probably one the most connected cities in the world! Cheap flights to everywhere.

What has been your favorite urban planning class so far and why?
I have to say I truly enjoyed *Learning from Latin American Cities* because of the many topics it touched upon. I really enjoyed Land Use Planning due to the team aspect of it, and I feel as though it gives you some form of "hands-on" experience, and hard skills, which then can be used in the professional world.

What is your interest within the urban planning field? What is your concentration?
I am interested in everything! I like to explore the intersection of policy, international development and how humans react to the built environment. My concentration is built environment and international development.

Why are you pursuing a dual degree program? I am pursuing a dual degree with International Affairs. I decided to pursue a second degree due to the many "number skills" SIPA offers. I have taken many classes on budgeting, cost-benefit, financing and infrastructure investment. I believe these are great compliments to a planning degree, especially to provide a comprehensive outlook when working in the public sector.

What is your dream career?
I would ideally like to work in infrastructure and economic development either from the policy perspective or the implementation process.

What is one advice that you have for the first-years?
Think about what you would like to write your thesis on! Just have some ideas and google them a bit to see what is out there. As a "second-year," our topic is constantly changing and we have lots to do, if you have a clear idea from the get-go and some background I think it's a great headstart!

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Kate Dunham

What is your background and what do you do outside of teaching?
Throughout my academic and professional life, I have lived and work in different cities around the world. This has had a profound impact on my interest in urban development today. From my early years in Dhaka Bangladesh where I spoke Bengali as my first language, to growing up in New York City, to spending a year's maternity leave in Barcelona where my husband picked up Catalan, to moving to Shanghai where I watched my two sons learn to converse fluently in Mandarin - I feel lucky to have had such a multifaceted and immersive international exposure in my life and for my family.

I have focused my career and research on issues related to urbanization and high density housing patterns. I have worked both in the public and private sectors including almost a decade at the New York City Department of City Planning and eight years in China working on both government and developer-driven master planning projects. I have also led a number of research projects related to urban housing issues in Asia and the USA.

Outside of teaching, I still look to work and travel abroad. I currently work on a number of miscellaneous projects including some free-lance consulting. In addition to spending time with my family, I am working hard to improve my squash game. I also try to take advantage as much as I can of the many academic and cultural events around New York.

What do you teach at Columbia University? Who should take your class?
In January, 2018, I will be teaching my seminar, "Practicum: Residential Planning in Global Cities". In this seminar, students learn about how planning regulations shape the design and functioning of urban neighborhoods by documenting and comparing case studies from around the world. We focus particularly on residential planning not only because urban housing is and will be for a long time one of the major challenges facing city planners, but also because residential codes are usually among the most complex and restrictive of the zoning categories. The course is intensive because we cover a lot of material in seven sessions, but it is also a lot of fun because we learn as a group from each other's interests and research.

Students who would appreciate my seminar are future city planners who want to build their pool of knowledge about different ways of approaching planning that exist today and who are eager to develop their own ideas about how planning can respond to the challenges facing cities in the future.

How long have you been teaching?
I've been teaching at GSAPP for three years and this will be the fourth time I've taught this seminar.

What do you enjoy most about teaching?
I love teaching my seminar because my students come from all over the world and I value the different experiences and outlooks they bring to the class. Each time I teach my seminar, I learn so much from the students' projects, class discussions and reading comments. Teaching also gives me incentive to stay abreast of current issues regarding planning and zoning in cities around the world today. I also enjoy staying in touch with students over time and seeing where their planning interests take them.

What advice do you have for students who are new to the field of urban planning?
Travel, travel, travel! And as you go, create a repertoire of places and environments that work or don't work for you. Challenge yourself to think about what the underlying planning codes might have been to create those places you like or don't like. Throughout my career as a planner and urban designer, I have often referred to what I have seen in other places as precedents to learn from or consider in the projects I have worked on. Also, while you are living in New York City studying in a planning program, take advantage of this opportunity to explore and learn about this city which has one of the oldest and most complex planning systems in the country, if not the world.

STUDENT COMPETITION

APA-TPD Student Paper Competition
Notice of call for papers APA-TPD Student Paper Competition Deadline: Wednesday, January 26, 2018 Prizes Awards will be given as follows for the three best papers: Grand prize - $1,000 Second place - $ 750 Third place - $ 500 The Transportation Planning Division (TPD) is looking for outstanding student papers on current trans¬portation planning or policy issues. The purpose is to recognize and reward work completed for courses in accredited graduate planning programs. Winning schools receive recognition and acclamation. As you can see from the attached list, previous winners have represented large and small schools/planning programs. Please nominate and encourage your students to participate. Winners will be announced at the APA National Conference in New Orleans, April 21-24, 2018. More info

2018 Urban Land Institute Hines Student Competition
Team applications for the ULI Hines Student Competition are due on December 4th, 2017, and the general competition runs from January 15th to 29th, 2018. Now in its 16th year, the competition engages multidisciplinary student teams to devise a comprehensive development program for a real, large-scale site in North America. This is an excellent opportunity for students to engage in solving a real-world planning challenge, and the winning team will receive $50,000. Students interested in entering the competition can talk to Weiping about using the Advanced Research course to earn credit next semester. More info

2018 Innovation in Affordable Housing Student Design and Planning Competition
IAH is a graduate student competition, now in its fifth year, that is run by HUD. It brings together students from different disciplines including architecture, planning, policy, real estate, business and others to collaboratively provide a real-world solution. The finalists receive a cash prize of $20,000 for first place, $10,000 for second place, and $5,000 for each third and fourth place teams. More info

OTHER NEWS

DOC NYC, November 9th to 16th
Documentary storytelling is flourishing like never before – encompassing reportage, memoir, history, humor and more. DOC NYC celebrates this cultural phenomenon and encourages its new directions. There are a couple of documentaries which touch on urban renewal, city planning, grassroots organizing, and gentrification.

- **The Iron Triangle:** Workers and owners of auto repair shops in Queens' Willets Point face off against gentrification and urban renewal for the future of their livelihoods and community.
- **Still Waters:** In Bushwick, where rapid gentrification is pushing out Latino families, a unique alternative after-school program serves as a haven for the community.
- **The Experimental City:** A fascinating chronicle of an almost successful attempt to build the city of the future by a visionary scientist and futurist comic strip writer in the 1960s.

Invisible Infrastructure - Sidewalk Labs, November 10th
Presentation by **Jesse Shapins** and **Violet Whitney** from Sidewalk Labs. Jesse Shapins is Director of Design at Sidewalk Labs, where he leads the company's human-centered design processes and helps teams explore ways to improve city life through new digital products. Violet Whitney is a designer at Sidewalk Labs and an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Columbia GSAPP. More info

World Day of Remembrance, November 19th
Sunday, November 19th is the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, and we will stand beside members of Families for Safe Streets again, more emboldened than ever before. To honor the memories of their loved ones, those killed and injured on Tuesday, and all those whose lives have been needlessly lost to traffic violence, Families for Safe Streets and Transportation Alternatives will gather together at City Hall Park. More info

Jerusalem Beyond Borders: Deconstructing the Political from the Functional, November 28th
Join us for a conversation with Nizar Farsakh, former general director of the PLO Delegation in Washington, D.C. and Middle East expert, and Arch. Karen Lee Bar-Sinai, co-founder and design director at SAYA/Design for Change – an organization which envisions and designs for peace through "resolution planning". Click here to RSVP. More info

Seeking to Interview Black Graduate Students at Columbia University
We're Mario Alvarez and Benji de la Piedra (CC '14, GSAS '16), creators of the Columbia Life Histories Project, an oral history project that investigates the varied backgrounds, experiences, and needs of students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. After completing our initial exploratory phase of interviews—summarized in this brief digital report—we have received funding to conduct another round of interviews in the Spring 2018 semester. The Columbia Life Histories Project will culminate in July 2018 with a series of recommendations to GSAS Dean Carlos Alonso, whose office is funded this independent study, about addressing the widespread feeling of institutional disavowal among the GSAS student body. Students who are interested in participating are invited to drop us a line: cuoralhistories@gmail.com.

Bulldozer Broadway Musical, Starting November 25th
Bulldozer Partners in association with Aaron Grant Theatrical invite you to select press previews of the Off-Broadway limited engagement of BULLDOZER: THE BALLAD OF ROBERT MOSES, the new rock musical about Robert Moses will have its official opening at the Theater at St. Clement's on Thursday, December 7th and features Music & Lyrics by Peter Galperin with a Book by Peter Galperin and Daniel Scot Kadin. 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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