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URBAN PLANNING NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 27, 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.

SAVE THE DATE THANKSGIVING POTLUCK DINNER

*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 5 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 will be posted on the UP lounge soon.

CLASS OF 2019 STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Pauline Claramunt

Where are you from?
Santiago, Chile

What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
I studied architecture at Universidad de Chile.

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
The great combination: NYC + Urban Planning! Also the possibility to explore a worldwide understanding of urban planning issues that GSAPP offers by the diversity of courses and concentrations, professors backgrounds and students.

What is your interest in the urban planning field?
International planning and sustainable development.

What is your dream career?
Participate in collective projects or institutions that contribute to increase urban equity and develop cities, communities or neighborhoods sustainably.

Tell me something that most people don't know about you.
I practiced Judo for a long time before studying architecture. I was ranked No. 1 in women´s Judo in Chile for couple years.

Camille Esquivel

Where are you from?
Vancouver, BC, Canada

What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
Environmental Design at the University of British Columbia (UBC)

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
I chose Columbia because I knew I wasn't going to be happy choosing one or the other when it came down to deciding between Architecture and Urban Planning. The fact that Columbia was a top institution in a city like no other (New York) and offered both under the same design school, I took the leap.

What is your interest in the urban planning field?
I'm really interested in the idea of designing and planning resilient communities— and all that this can encompass. I’m especially interested in the intersection of planning with other fields (not just architecture) that can heighten the profession and practice to break ground and be more innovative, like regenerative energy for example.

What is your dream career?
My dream career is one where I am not a typical planner or architect, but someone who is challenging what it means to come from either (or in my case, both) backgrounds. Ultimately, I hope I am making a real positive impact on my community and beyond.

Tell me something that most people don't know about you.
I used to think I was going to become a marine biologist and worked at a Marine Mammal Rescue Centre where I helped take care of 90+ injured, abandoned, and sick harbour seal pups.

Chaouki El Rassi

Where are you from?
Lebanon

What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
Civil and Environmental Engineering in the American University of Beirut

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
Since I was a child, I have always wanted to live in New York City. I have also hoped to study in an Ivy League University. Columbia happens to offer both. I have also worked with an M.S. Urban Planning graduate and he encouraged me to enroll in this program.

What is your interest in the urban planning field?
Built Environment

What is your dream career?
I hope to have my own planning firm that offers consultancy to both the government and private developers.

Tell me something that most people don't know about you.
I love extreme sports: Wake-boarding, Surfing, Water Skiing, Alpine Skiing & Snowboarding.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Moira O'Neill

What is your background and what do you do outside of teaching?
I was born and raised in Oakland, California when the city was most known for poverty, inequality, and violence. I attended and graduated from poor segregated schools that mirrored the conditions of the city. That experience of growing up in Oakland in the 1980s is what led me to care about the conditions that create or perpetuate inequity and the capacity for redistributive public policy. Before pursuing an academic path, I was a public law lawyer. Today, I am engaged in research related to the housing crisis (specifically how local regulations impact residential housing development timelines) and exploring how public institutions are implementing initiatives that shift public procurement practices and change infrastructure to increase sustainability in local and regional food systems. When I am not working, I am usually with my family--which includes my husband Malo Hutson and two young children Nia and Liam (ages 6 and 3)--exploring New York City and all of the cultural sites the City has to offer.

What do you teach at Columbia University? Who should take your class?
This fall I am teaching Community Development Planning. In the spring I will teach Local Government Politics and Law. Students interested in understanding how law and urban planning intersect and the role of local public institutions in addressing real-world problems (like racial residential segregation or inadequate affordable housing supply) should take my class.

How long have you been teaching?
I have been teaching since January 2015. At the University of California at Berkeley, I taught Land Use Controls and Introduction to Environmental Law and Planning in the Department of City & Regional Planning and Local Government Law at Berkeley Law (Boalt Hall).

What do you enjoy most about teaching?
The best part of teaching is connecting with students who are passionate about social justice and motivated to use their professional training to increase opportunities for the most vulnerable populations in their own communities. I have had the privilege of teaching seminars that engage the topics of discriminatory land use controls and development practices that have created or perpetuated racial residential segregation and the consequent disparate life outcomes. These courses tend to attract students interested in understanding how law and urban planning intersect and the power of local government, land use and development to redress social and spatial inequities.

What advice do you have for students who are new to the field of urban planning?
Develop strong research methods now, constantly challenge your own assumptions about people and places throughout your career, and think critically about the purpose and potential impact of your work as you move forward in your profession.

NYC COMMUNITY PLANNING FELLOWSHIP

FUND FOR THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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PLANNING FELLOWS

Congratulations to Emily Fesette, Faisha Indrakesuma, and Angel Zamora who were awarded the NYC Community Planning Fellowship. The Community Planning Fellowship program provides selected students with an incomparable experience in real community planning issues and the workings of local government and community boards.

- **Emily Fesette,** Manhattan Community Board 7
  I applied for the fellowship to gain real-world skills and utilize the things we are learning in class in practice!
- **Faisha Indrakesuma,** Manhattan Community Board 4
  I applied to this program because I think it’s an amazing opportunity for me to experience firsthand the complex community issues and constraints in neighborhood-based planning. My courses throughout last year focused more within the community and economic concentration, while this year I’m focused more on the built environment, specifically transportation. I’m hoping this fellowship merges my two interests and helps me apply it in a real world context.
- **Angel Zamora,** Bronx Community Board 6
  I applied to the fellowship because I felt that the goals of the program paralleled my experience, from politics to data analysis and community engagement to economic development. I hope to get a better understanding of the governmental structure and its implications on planning practice, within the NYC context, by working with various levels of the political ecology.

Fellows work an average of 15 hours per week for a full academic year for an assigned Community Board. The Community Planning Fellowship program carries through both semesters of the academic year, and provides each fellow with a stipend of $4,000-- $2,000 per semester. Applications for next year's fellowship will be announced in June 2018. See link for this year's fellowship information.

STUDENT COMPETITION

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

Public Housing Today: Forum, November 1st
The current challenges facing New York City public housing are assessed from multiple perspectives. Participants include:

- **Quardean Lewis-Allen,** Founder and CEO, Made in Brownsville
- **Victor Bach,** Senior Housing Policy Analyst, Community Service Society
- **Jae Shin,** Rose Architectural Fellow, NYCHA

This forum is hosted by the Wallach Art Gallery in conjunction with it's current exhibition, Living in America: Frank Lloyd Wright, Harlem & Modern Housing on view until December 17, 2017. Columbia University’s premiere visual arts space, The Miriam & Ira D. Wallach Art Gallery presents exhibitions organized by graduate students and faculty in Art History & Archaeology and other Columbia scholars, focusing on the contemporary artists of our campus and communities, and offering new scholarship on the University’s special collections. More info

The Hindsight Conference, APA-NYM Diversity Committee Conference Set, November 3rd
Hindsight is our first annual conference that will recognize the 100th anniversary of Buchanan v. Warley, the Supreme Court decision that invalidated zoning based on race. Conference sessions will also look at how this ruling has impacted the planning profession in hindsight of the last 100 years. The main themes of the conference are equity, inclusion, diversity and access. This conference is unique in that it is open to all and the presenters/panelists represent a mixture of backgrounds (age, gender, ethnicity, sexual identity, professional experience, etc.), topics and geographies (this year we have planners from Detroit, Boston and Maryland participating!).

The keynote panelists are:

- **Letitia James,** Public Advocate for the City of New York
- **Mindy Fullilove,** Professor of Urban Policy and Health at The New School
- **Coty Montag,** Deputy Director of Litigation for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund

Student tickets are $10. It includes the cost of the lunch and breakfast. More info

The Kenneth Frampton Endowed Lecture: Rahul Mehrotra, November 8th
WORKING IN MUMBAI - architecture in a world of inequities. Response by Kenneth Frampton. **Rahul Mehrotra** is an architect, urban designer, and educator. His firm, RMA Architects, was founded in 1990 in Mumbai and has designed and executed projects for clients that include government and non-governmental agencies, corporate, as well as private individuals and institutions. The firm has also initiated several unsolicited projects driven by the firm’s commitment to advocacy in the city of Mumbai. Mehrotra is a professor of urban design and planning at the Harvard GSD and has written and lectured extensively on architecture, conservation, and urban planning in Mumbai and India. More info

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

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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