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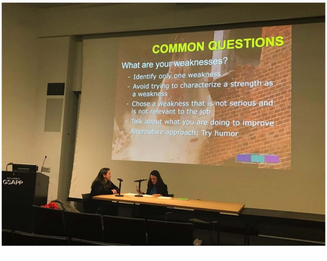
URBAN PLANNING NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 16, 2018

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 CAREER WEEK

Office Visit to AKRF
Cameron Robertson (M.S. UP/HP '17) and
Evan Sweet (M.S. UP '17)

On February 9th, over 20 students from UP visited the offices of AKRF - a multidisciplinary consulting firm specializing in environmental, planning, and engineering services. The afternoon's schedule included presentations from Graham Trelstad - a partner at AKRF and adjunct faculty member at UP - as well as several other planners and historians. The visit concluded with a panel of Columbia alums speaking about their transition from graduate school to full-time work at AKRF, and featured Evan Sweet (M.S. UP '17) and Cameron Robertson (M.S. UP/HP '17). AKRF will send four representatives to the Career Fair this afternoon to meet with students.



COMMON QUESTIONS

What are your weaknesses?
- Identify only one weakness
- Avoid trying to characterize a strength as a weakness
- Chose a weakness that is not serious and is not relevant to the job
- Talk about what you are doing to improve
- Alternative approach: Try humor

Sarah Dunn, Chief Talent Officer at HR&A,
Led a Mock Interview with Maria Garces (M.S. UP '18)

On February 7th, Lee Miller gave an overview of the job search process and shared tips on how to write effective cover letters and resumes. This session was followed by a mock interview led by Sarah Dunn, Chief Talent Officer at HR&A, and Maria Garces (M.S. UP '18). Through this mock interview, students learned the do's and don'ts of interviewing. Sarah Dunn also shared her views on the hiring process in a private consulting firm.

Moderator:
Kaiqi Zhang, AECOM
Panelists:
Junda Chen, Yihai Group North America
Xiaomin Qian, Compass
Lu Sun, Bank of China
Panel Discussion
GSAPP

Urban China Network Alumni Panel
Lu Sun (M.S. UP '17), Junda Chen (M.S. UP '15), and Xiaomin Qian (M.S. UP '15)

Later in the evening on February 7th, Urban China Network hosted an alumni panel. The panel discussed how they began their careers in New York City, how to look for jobs as international students, and strategies to pursue further education. In addition, overseas alumni also shared their thoughts through pre-recorded videos.

We hope you took advantage of these various panels, information sessions, and networking opportunities to get a head start on your job and internship search. You can find the full career week program here, and look out for an email containing more information and the sign-up form later today.

Next week we will have our final event:

- Friday, February 23rd (6 to 9 pm), Alumni Networking Evening at the Faculty House

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URBAN PLANNING PROGRAM COUNCIL STUDENT BODY MEETING

On Thursday, February 15th, the Urban Planning Program Council led its first student body meeting of the academic year. First- and Second-Year Program Council Leaders debriefed the student body on issues that were raised in the survey. The meeting was well-attended and resulted in a fruitful and productive conversation on priorities that the Program Council should focus on for the coming months. In addition, the student body also expressed their interest in leading student-led committees on specific priorities that had to be addressed.

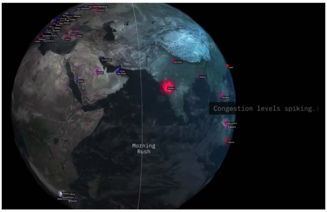
FEBRUARY 13TH LIPS RECAP

On February 13th, Alexander Diener, Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Kansas, presented his talk titled "New Silk Roads and the Changing Socio-Economic Geographies of Mongolia and Kazakhstan".

Alexander Diener started his lecture emphasizing the metaphoric problem of the silk-road. While it has been characterized by a single element, the road is multi-vectorial, presenting not only one road but multiple ones, and not only one means of transportation but diverse. In addition, individual countries have their own ideas and perspectives on the project. There are proponents and opponents of the New Silk Road. Diener continued by analyzing the complexities of infrastructure projects of that scale, especially when dealing with border crossing and issues such as migration, human mobility/immobility, and trafficking. From then, the conference shifted its scale, focusing on two countries affected by the new Silk Road. In Kazakhstan, he compared the country's concept of regional policy from 1996 to nowadays, emphasizing its shift from a focus on equal opportunities to an agglomeration-based development. In the second case, he underlined the problematic lack of infrastructure in Mongolia and the possible impacts of the currently under development Millennium Highway.

- Gloria Serra Coch (M.S. UP '19)

CARLO RATTI - MIT SENSEABLE CITY LAB, FEBRUARY 21ST



Carlo Ratti is an architect, engineer, and professor at MIT, where he directs the Senseable City Lab, and is a founding partner of the international design and innovation office Carlo Ratti Associati.

In the last decade, Carlo has given talks around the world on the theme of Smart Cities, while his work has been exhibited in international venues including the Venice Biennale, New York's MoMA, London's Science Museum, and Barcelona's Design Museum.

The event is at Avery Hall, Room 114 and starts at 11 am. More info

HEALTH EQUITY: SHAPING JUST SOCIETIES, MARCH 23RD

EATS
FARMACY

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

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Francis Yu

Where are you from?
Vallejo, California

What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
Double Bachelors in Urban Studies and Planning and Communication Studies at University of California, San Diego.

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
It was between LA and NYC, and the decision came to me as I was driving from San Diego to Santa Barbara, and somehow found myself stuck in LA traffic.. at 11 pm. I've also been infatuated with this city ever since my first visit. There was always this feeling that there was something here for me. Academically speaking, I chose Columbia because of the program's generalist approach and that I would be equipping myself with a bunch of different tools from the many different aspects of planning.

What is your interest in the urban planning field?
Working with communities, particularly underserved and marginalized communities. I've always felt this love and support from the different communities that I've come from—whether it be queer Asian/POC communities, or the Filipino-American/Asian-American and immigrant communities I grew up in. Unfortunately, a lot of these voices aren't represented well in the processes that shape the built environment, or the policies that govern our society. My stake in planning is helping provide a platform for these communities.

What is your dream career?
Secretary of HUD.. that is, if that agency still exists at that point in my career. Additionally, I'd like to run a planning firm that acts as a technical assistance organization to help mobilize and organize communities.

Tell me something that most people don't know about you.
I've learned to play about 9 different instruments throughout my life, though the only thing I can still play now is the piano.

SECOND-YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Mai Uchida

Where are you from?
Japan, but I lived in Orange County for a few years before coming to New York City.

What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
Political Science and Sustainable Development at Columbia

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
Since I did my undergraduate here and was very happy with the level of education I had, it felt natural for me to continue my master's here. Also, when I was applying to grad schools, Columbia is the only school under my radar that offered a dual degree program with public health.

What has been your favorite urban planning class so far and why?
I would say FUDD with Alejandro and Data Visualization with Juan, which I'm currently taking. Since I'm interested in data analysis and visualization, being able to code and to use design software is a crucial skill set to have; and those two classes gave me a great opportunity to learn not only the software but how to present data and information more effectively. I also have to mention that I actually enjoyed the studio as well because I love my team and I enjoyed working with them so much.

What is your interest in the urban planning field? What is your concentration?
My concentration is Urban Analytics, and my interests are mainly in sustainable cities, data analysis, and visualization.

Why are you pursuing a dual degree program? I was initially interested in how the built environments affect human health, leading me to study Urban Planning and Public Health: a weird combo of the disciplines. Now I feel I'm a more of a planning and data person, but I appreciate the rigorous training in biostatistics through the public health program.

What is your dream career?
My dream career would be a data analysis, mapping, and design-oriented data visualization job in a company that allows me to use my own Mac and has flexible work hour (my morning classes are killing me) with free good quality coffee, and beer and wine taps in the office.

What is one advice that you have for the first-years?
Play hard, study hard, and learn to live with things that you have no control over them.

Faisha Indrakesuma

Preferred name: Asha

Where are you from?
Jakarta, Indonesia

What and where did you study for your undergraduate degree?
I studied Architecture at Institut Teknologi Bandung, a three-hour drive from Jakarta.

Why did you choose to study at Columbia University?
Because I wanted those baby blue graduation robes, OBVIOUSLY, to match my then blue hair. I've always loved living in a dense city, so it seemed like the obvious setting to study urban planning. In a lot of ways, I feel that the U.S. is similar to Indonesia and Jakarta is an analog of New York.

What has been your favorite urban planning class so far and why?
RIO STUDIO. * *insert caipirinhas* * Where we imposed epileptic seizures on all the professors and everyone in our year, accompanied with a full-on narration by yours truly. The whole experience brought our group closer in a way not offered by other classes and experimenting with new ways to communicate planning recommendations was also super fun.

What is your interest within the urban planning field? What is your concentration?
I love cities and coming from a real estate background, I was really fascinated by the rate cities were developing all over Indonesia and how development is shaped and directed in general. My concentration is community and economic development AND the built environment.

What is your dream career?
World Bank Country Director or Indonesian Minister.

What is one advice that you have for the first-years?
Don't sweat the small stuff. Everything works out eventually.

FELLOWSHIP

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

UMass Boston Launches Paul Davidoff Website
Paul Davidoff's1965 article "Advocacy and Pluralism in Planning" remains one of the most frequently read, downloaded and cited articles by urban planning scholars, professionals, policy-makers and activists committed to advancing social justice in the city more than fifty years after its original publication. This article, along with Paul Davidoff's work as a planning scholar, professional educator and Civil Rights activist, encouraged many planners to join our profession's advocacy planning movement which seeks to promote redistributive policies and participatory planning processes benefiting poor and working-class communities.More info

2018 55th IMCL Conference on Healthy, 10-Minute Neighborhoods Ottawa, Canada, Scholarship Deadline: March 1st

Student Scholarships and Volunteer Positions Application Deadline – March 1st, 2018 55th IMCL Conference on Healthy, 10-Minute Neighborhoods Ottawa, Canada, May 14th to 18th, 2018. A limited number of Student Scholarships for Ph.D. students, and Volunteer Positions for Graduate students are available. Both positions waive the student registration fee. 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

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. Deadline to apply is March 2nd. 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

Columbia University
Graduate School of Architecture,
Planning and Preservation
1172 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, New York 10027
(212) 854-3414

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