

A newsletter for alumni and friends of the DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING
University of Wisconsin–Madison

FROM THE CHAIR

James A. LaGro, Jr.

Since our last issue of *Connections* (December 2004), there have been several significant changes in URPL's faculty and staff. Professor Steve Born retired early in January (see articles in this issue). Assistant Professor Brian Stone resigned at the end of the spring semester to begin a new position in the College of Architecture at his alma mater, the Georgia Institute of Technology. We wish Brian and his family the best, and hope that their return to the South will be productive and happy.

The department added two new faculty members this year. Assistant Professor Kenneth Genskow, an Extension Specialist with expertise in watershed planning and policy, joined the faculty in July. Assistant Professor Asli Gocmen, with expertise in geospatial information systems and planning, will join the faculty in January 2006. Asli successfully defended her doctoral dissertation this fall at the University of Michigan. The department is also in the process of



recruiting a faculty member with expertise in land use planning and policy. We hope the successful candidate for this position will join us in August 2006.

We continually look for ways to improve the quality of our degree programs. With advice from our Alumni Advisory Council, the accredited Masters curriculum was revised recently to provide students more opportunities for synthesis and the application of knowledge to planning practice. For example, a course on the "Structure and Function of Cities" and another course on "Planning and the Legal System" were added to the program's required set of "core" courses. We also engage a highly qualified adjunct faculty in our teaching programs. Fortunately, we have access to experienced planning practitioners, in the Madison area, who are eager to bring their knowledge into the classroom as seminar speakers and part-time lecturers.

As you'll see from our list of 2005 graduates, the URPL community continues to grow. And we sincerely want to keep alumni, students, faculty, and staff "connected." A lot of what's new in URPL is posted on our website: www.wisc.edu/urpl/. Yet we also want to hear from you. So please update us on significant career achievements — or other developments in your personal or professional life. Thanks!

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING: ROADS TRAVELED AND PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE

Emeritus Professor Stephen Born retired in January 2005 after more than 30 years with URPL and University of Wisconsin–Extension. On April 15–16, a retirement banquet at Madison's Monona Terrace Convention Center and a two-day symposium at the campus Unions were held in Steve's honor. Several former students and colleagues traveled to Madison to help Steve celebrate this important milestone. On Friday afternoon, an alumni panel reflected on Steve's role in their educations—and subsequent careers.

Alumni Panel

On Friday afternoon, April 15, an alumni panel of former Born students provided summaries of their careers since leaving Madison and insights into the influences that Steve had on them. The panel included **Al Fish** (M.S. 2001), **Steve Romano** (M.S. 1980), **Julia Doermann** (M.S. 1990), **Salvör Jónsdóttir** (M.S. *continued on page 6*)

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URPL GRADUATION—MAY 2005

As many of you know, Steve Born can be eloquent—and loquacious! The graduating class invited Steve to speak at the commencement ceremony. Included here are excerpts from Steve’s advice to the new graduates.

Good luck to URPL’s graduating class of May and August 2005!

Anthony Adams
Andrew Angeli
Jessica Athens
Benjamin Conklin
Kiyonobu Fujimoto
Colleen Blomgren
Jude Gagliano
Yin Han
Peter Herreid
Richard Haskell
Michael Kraemer
Kathleen Lane
Ryan Lynch
Megan MacGlashan
John Mataya
Andrew Perlstein
Jamie Radel
Robert Ricchi
Tobi Rutten
Michelle Stahlhut
Eileen Switzer
Meghan Thomas
Chi-Chun Tsai
Benjamin Zellers
Corey Zetts
Mark Stevens, Ph.D.

Why is planning often so controversial?

As Woodrow Wilson once said: “If you want to make enemies, try to change something.” And planning is all about change.

1. Planning is often (and wrongly) equated with centralized government, top-down decision-making, rigid bureaucracies, and command-control (regulatory) strategies (which URPL graduates know are only one tool for implementing plans).
2. Planning expands the decision arena and number of actors involved in decisions (more interests at the table, often under-represented or politically weak interests)—and tries to make the process of choosing more democratic and transparent. These efforts are often not welcomed by prevailing power structure/rights holders—but in communities around the country, absent planning, the name of the game is “developer’s choice.”
3. Meaningful planning processes expose conflicts (often divisive distributional or value conflicts)—most politicians, and people generally, are conflict averse, and such conflicts tend to slow down decision processes while attempts at resolving them are made. Thus we should expect contentious situations in addressing issues like workforce housing, segregated schools, gridlocked transportation systems, and sprawl development.
4. Planning deals with individual vs. collective values and needs, leading to contentious issues involving land use and property rights.

But in the end, what reality-based human wouldn’t want to bring analysis, forethought, and public engagement to the many complex choices/decisions that will over time affect our own lives, our communities, our state and nation, and indeed our World?

Other challenges

- ◆ Implementation (moving plans forward) in a shared power universe—new measures for inter-jurisdictional cooperation will be necessary to escape parochialism;
- ◆ Rediscovering community and the “commons”—getting beyond the free market and privatization ideologues to asserting collective needs, the reality of public goods, and balancing the needs/rights of the individual with those of the community;
- ◆ Fostering a culture of foresight and planning—promoting planning in public discourse, championing good planning which enhances public welfare.

How can planners be more effective?

Planners must actively engage the “anti-planning” forces directly in the interest of building a democratic society that tries to learn from the past and plans ahead for a better future for succeeding generations. Planners need to pay more attention to advocating for and explaining the “value added” by sound planning. And as you pursue your careers, you’ll need to constantly remind yourself amidst the turmoil of today’s planning battles that the value of planning includes—but goes beyond—improving service efficiencies and measuring economic benefits and costs derived from planning...that longer term, less direct benefits of such planning activities as open space and land acquisition plans (while difficult to accurately measure) can have a profound effect on quality of life for future generations.

Finally—as one of my favorite planners, Bill Moyers, says (ok, he’s not actually an accredited planner!)—“act as if the future depended on you. Believe me, it does.”

MILWAUKEE WELCOMES “CENTRAL CITY PLANNING” STUDENTS

On Friday, October 7, students in URPL 761 convened at 7 a.m. and drove to Milwaukee for a full day of meetings with city officials and neighborhood CDC directors. Organized by **Linda Donnelly**, AICP (one of URPL’s adjunct faculty), the trip included site tours of recent re-development projects.

In the morning, Milwaukee City Development Commission’s Martha Brown described the organization and activities of the Commission. Una Vanduvall and Chris Gleissner hosted a slide presentation on the City’s plans and planning processes for downtown and neighborhoods. They led the class on a tour of “catalytic” projects such as Menominee Valley industrial redevelopment, Park East corridor, and the Beerline revitalization. Students also visited the revitalized Bradley Street area and the Highland Avenue HOPE VI public housing redevelopment.

The afternoon was spent in the neighborhoods, primarily King Avenue, Bronzeville, Washington Park, and Lindsay Heights. **Welford Sanders** (M.S. 1974), Director of the Martin Luther King Economic Development Corporation, met the class for lunch at the Ponderosa Restaurant—the first project

of the MLK EDC—and discussed the City’s current mixed-use development projects. Teig-Whaley Smith, Director of the King Avenue Business Improvement District (BID), took the class on a tour of three Business Improvement Districts with their respective CDC directors. Leo Reis, Program Director of Milwaukee Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC), explained the Washington Park Quality of Life neighborhood plan and led a tour of infill housing projects as well as community service projects in the Lisbon Avenue area and Lindsay Heights neighborhood.

Finally, at 4:30 p.m. an exhausted (on “information overload”) group of students met with all of the above at the MLK EDC conference room to ask questions, just “react,” and give feedback to their Milwaukee hosts. The URPL students were impressed with the knowledge and dedication of the people involved in Milwaukee’s revitalization. They were also encouraged by the impact that planners are having in helping Milwaukee work toward a positive, hopeful future.

CONNECTIONS STAFF:

Connections Staff
Pat Cantrell
Laura Risseeuw
James LaGro
Faculty advisor

Please send submissions of material for possible inclusion in future issues of *Connections* to 112 Old Music Hall, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, 925 Bascom Mall, Madison, WI 53706 or email to pacantre@wisc.edu.

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE

We invite you to visit the URPL Web site at www.wisc.edu/urpl. Now more than ever, the site provides the most complete up to date information about:

- ◆ Happenings at URPL *new positions available, projects, publications and research, academic programs and courses, faculty and students*
- ◆ Alumni news

SERVICE LEARNING IN SOUTH MADISON

Urban Design and Redevelopment Workshop, a new course taught by Professor **Jim LaGro**, focused in spring 2005 on the redevelopment and revitalization of “failed” strip malls. In collaboration with the City of Madison’s Department of Planning and Development and an architectural and planning consultant team, students in the course assisted with the analysis and planning for a 10-acre redevelopment project in south Madison. The multi-block area includes the Vil-lager Mall, a partially vacant commercial strip mall on South Park Street. Students in the course completed the following:



Student-led focus group with neighborhood stakeholders.

- ◆ documented significant precedents of shopping mall redevelopment in the United States and beyond;
- ◆ analyzed the site’s biophysical and social context within the surrounding South Madison neighborhoods;
- ◆ utilized data from a market analysis, building condition report, site and contextual analyses, precedent analyses, visual preference survey, and neighborhood focus groups to develop alternative redevelopment concepts for the site and adjacent public areas;
- ◆ collaborated with the consultant team to present the results, in a public forum, to City staff, south Madison residents and business owners, developers, and other stakeholders.

VISITING SCHOLARS

Axel Klaphake, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Landscape Economics at the Institute for Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning of the Technical University Berlin, Germany, was a visiting scholar in URPL from April through July. Axel spent this time at UW–Madison doing research into comparative institutional frameworks for river basin management in federalist systems.

Françoise Jarrique, a Professor at l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Montpellier, France, spent a few days on campus in September. She participated in URPL's fall seminar series and spoke about her research in France: "Country in the City: Exploring Agriculture as a Component of Sustainable Urban Planning."

Also participating in URPL's seminar series in November was **Kris Wernstedt**, a scientist with Resources for the Future, Washington, D.C. He spoke on "Areawide Brownfield Regeneration through Business-based Community Land Trusts."

STUDENT NEWS

Nurul Widyaningrum, a second year student from Indonesia, presented a paper in April at the Seventh Graduate Student Symposium at the Southeast Asia Center, Cornell University. The conference's theme was "Translation and the Production of Knowledge in Southeast Asia." Ms. Widyaningrum's paper was on "The Role of Expert Knowledge in Planning."

In July, **Alice Yates** accepted a full-time

position in Senator Carl Levin's personal office in Washington, D.C. as Legislative Assistant (handling environmental and smart growth issues). With mixed emotions, Alice is interrupting her graduate studies in URPL. Yet she is already working on several important policy issues (including bills responding to the U.S. Supreme Court's recent Kelo decision). We wish her the very best!

FACULTY NEWS

Professor **Harvey Jacobs** spent several weeks in January 2005 at the University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain (Lugo campus). He was there as a Fulbright Senior Specialist under the joint sponsorship of the Fulbright Program of the U.S. Council for International Exchange of Scholars, and the Department of Agroforestry Engineering. Harvey taught a short course on land policy and property rights to graduate students, presented a public lecture for academics and professionals on sprawl and smart growth, and consulted with Professor Rafael Crecente, his faculty host, on the design of a new graduate program in planning. Professor Crecente has visited UW–Madison twice, including for two months as a visiting scholar in URPL (see Fall 2004 Connections).

Also in January, Harvey began one year as a Planning and Development Fellow of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. He was selected to be in the first group of these Fellows, from an international competition that drew 110 applications. His project is titled "The 'Taking' of Europe: Globalizing the American Ideal of Private Property?" It is premised on a European move towards a U.S. "takings clause" type of model for private-public property relations. The research is expected to contribute significantly to his planned book on the same topic.

Professor **Jack Huddleston** was on sabbatical leave during the spring 2005 semester. Jack spent the leave updating teaching materials for URPL 751—Introduction to Financial Planning. During this process, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in Cam-

bridge, Massachusetts, became interested in assessing the level of financial understanding among planners across the nation. The Lincoln Institute is a leading national and international research institute on issues dealing with land development and taxation. Jack was asked to convene a week-long panel of leading planning scholars with expertise in the financial issues associated with planning. Jack was also interviewed for an article in *Land Lines*, a Lincoln Institute publication (see the July 2005 online edition at: www.lincolninst.edu/pubs).

This past summer, **Brian Ohm** was promoted to the rank of Professor. Brian (with Robert Sitkowski) also published "Integrating New Urbanism and Affordable Housing Tools" in *The Urban Lawyer* (volume 36, number 4, pages 857–866). Ohm is also the principal investigator on a grant recently awarded by the National Academy of Science to help establish a program for students from the United States to research issues related to coastal management in Estonia.

Professor **David Marcouiller** is teaching URPL 912 (Planning Workshop) this fall—and guiding student work on two different applied planning projects in Wisconsin. The first is "Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Planning in Jefferson County: Socio-economic and Physical Design Elements." The second project, in Douglas County, is "Recreation Planning for Whiteside Island and the Superior Municipal Forest: An Assessment of Economic and Fiscal Impacts." For details: www.wisc.edu/urpl/workshop/index.html.

RECENT GIFTS TO URPL

We thank the following alumni, friends, and organizations for their very generous support:

Judith Adler	<i>Janesville, WI</i>	John Jablonski	<i>Lakewood, NY</i>
Shant Agajanian	<i>Joshua Tree, CA</i>	Todd Jacobson	<i>Minneapolis, MN</i>
Alliant Energy Foundation	<i>Madison, WI</i>	Harold Jordahl	<i>Madison, WI</i>
Gregory Baker	<i>Bowie, MD</i>	Jerome Kaufman	<i>Madison, WI</i>
Patricia Baker	<i>Cheshire CT</i>	Richard Kedzior	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
Dean Baumgardner	<i>Madison, WI</i>	Paul Kent	<i>Madison, WI</i>
David Beckwith	<i>Milwaukee, WI</i>	Zoe Kilkenny	<i>Troy, MI</i>
Thomas Blum	<i>Laguna Niguel, CA</i>	Gina Kirk	<i>San Luis Obispo, CA</i>
Linda Bochert	<i>Madison, WI</i>	Irene Kringle	<i>Madison, WI</i>
Stephen Born	<i>Madison, WI</i>	James & Rebecca Kurtz	<i>Middleton, WI</i>
David Boyd	<i>Middleton, WI</i>	John LaMotte	<i>Chicago, IL</i>
Emil Brandt	<i>Stillwater, MN</i>	John Lanum	<i>Lansing, MI</i>
Anthony Brinkman	<i>Troy, MI</i>	Donald Last	<i>Madison, WI</i>
Lee Brown	<i>Wilmette, IL</i>	Pamela Lazaris	<i>Lake Mills, WI</i>
John Bryson	<i>Minneapolis, MN</i>	Thomas Lillesand	<i>Middleton, WI</i>
Debra Burdett	<i>South Jordan, UT</i>	David Lindorff	<i>Madison, WI</i>
Gerald Campbell	<i>Madison, WI</i>	Thomas Logan	<i>Grand Rapids, MI</i>
Bradley Cantrell	<i>Madison, WI</i>	Allen Lovejoy	<i>Woodbury, MN</i>
Douglas Carlson	<i>Madison, WI</i>	Lynn McCormick	<i>New Rochelle, NY</i>
Mohammad Chowdhury	<i>Salem, OH</i>	Jay & Katherine McMurray	<i>Littleton, CO</i>
Marvin Christensen	<i>Alamo, CA</i>	Dennis Malloy	<i>Montpelier, VT</i>
Arnold Clement	<i>Racine, WI</i>	Elmira Mangum-Daniel	<i>Carrboro, NC</i>
Conservation Ontario	<i>Newmarket, Ontario</i>	Bruce Meier	<i>Madison, WI</i>
Barbara Constans	<i>Madison, WI</i>	Jerry Minnich	<i>Madison, WI</i>
Michael Dailey	<i>Gainesville, VA</i>	Hillorie Morrison	<i>Baltimore, MD</i>
Larry Davis	<i>Camarillo, CA</i>	Joseph Moskal	<i>Egerton, WI</i>
Walter Dean	<i>Huntington Woods, MI</i>	Larry Mugler	<i>Littleton, CO</i>
Charles Deknatel	<i>Somerville, MA</i>	Philip Mummert	<i>Louisville, TN</i>
Vijaykumar Deshpande	<i>Laytonsville, MD</i>	Thomas Murtha	<i>Oak Park, IL</i>
Dewitt Ross & Stevens, s.c.	<i>Madison, WI</i>	Robert Nightingale	<i>Shawnee, KS</i>
Bert Dodds	<i>Madison, WI</i>	William Obermann	<i>Denver, CO</i>
Dallas Dollase	<i>Camp Hill, PA</i>	Mark Opitz	<i>Middleton, WI</i>
Vicki Elkin	<i>Madison, WI</i>	Ann Ostrom	<i>Middleton, WI</i>
Philip Evenson	<i>Brookfield, WI</i>	Meredith Ostrom	<i>Middleton, WI</i>
Wendy Fearnside	<i>Madison, WI</i>	Carolyn Peters	<i>Milwaukee, WI</i>
Christine Felsing	<i>Iowa City, IA</i>	Carole Peterson	<i>Madison, WI</i>
John Felt	<i>Kinderhook, NY</i>	Samina Raja	<i>Buffalo, NY</i>
Nancy Field	<i>Seattle, WA</i>	Mark Ratner	<i>Glencoe, IL</i>
Doris Fischer	<i>Sheridan, MT</i>	Kenneth Robbins	<i>Madison, WI</i>
Alan Fish	<i>Madison, WI</i>	Betty Lou Roberts	<i>Madison, WI</i>
Julie Fitch	<i>Aliso Viejo, CA</i>	John Roberts	<i>Madison, WI</i>
David Foster	<i>Chicago, IL</i>	Michael Roeder	<i>Fort Myers, FL</i>
Scott Froehlke	<i>Montello, WI</i>	Louise Root-Robbins	<i>Madison, WI</i>
James Gilmour	<i>Fargo, ND</i>	Mark Vander Schaaf	<i>Saint Paul, MN</i>
Miriam Gittelson	<i>Jamesville, NY</i>	Lee Schoenecker	<i>Washington, DC</i>
Suzanne Gray	<i>Columbus, OH</i>	Thomas Shircel	<i>Kenosha, WI</i>
John Gregrich	<i>Columbia, MD</i>	Joseph Sensenbrenner	<i>Madison, WI</i>
Chris Haese	<i>Neenah, WI</i>	Mary Ellyn Sensenbrenner	<i>Madison, WI</i>
Alan Hamel	<i>Minneapolis, MN</i>	Robert Stanton	<i>Madison, WI</i>
Eileen Hanneman	<i>Madison, WI</i>	Lawrence Sromovsky	<i>Madison, WI</i>
David Hanson	<i>Madison, WI</i>	David Thomas	<i>Hudson, OH</i>
Martin Hanson	<i>Mellen, WI</i>	Thomas Weigand	<i>Verona, WI</i>
Henry Hart	<i>Madison, WI</i>	Eleanor Whiffen	<i>Madison, WI</i>
Mary & Steven Hemshrot	<i>Shell Lake, WI</i>	Brian Whitmarsh	<i>Hudson, WI</i>
David Hinds	<i>Madison, WI</i>	Lyman Wible	<i>Middleton, WI</i>
Elizabeth Howe	<i>Chebeague Island, ME</i>	Chia-Yu Wu	<i>Fremont, CA</i>
Judith & John Hutchinson	<i>Sun Prairie, WI</i>	Tracy Zafian	<i>Amherst, MA</i>
Michael Ivey	<i>Madison, WI</i>		

Your Gift Makes a Difference

We sincerely appreciate gifts to the Department of Urban and Regional Planning—which are critical to our educational mission. Contributions to URPL through the UW Foundation's gift funds help us attract top graduate students and provide vital resources for planning education enrichment. Gifts support the URPL library (books and journal subscriptions) and computer lab (planning support software), and strengthen the URPL community in a variety of ways. For example, recent gifts have funded professional development workshops organized by the Wisconsin Student Planning Association (WSPA), URPL alumni receptions (at ACSP and APA meetings), the publication and mailing of this newsletter, and travel subsidies for URPL's students to attend planning conferences. These gifts also supplement Graduate School support for distinguished speakers, including Jarold Kaden, Paul Gottlieb, and James Kunstler.

Please see the **UW Foundation Gift Form** enclosed with this issue of *Connections*. We promise careful stewardship of URPL gift funds. Gifts of any amount are welcome — and most gratefully received.

ALUMNI NEWS

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING continued from page 1

1994), **Stephanie Lindloff** (M.S. 1998) and **Richard Margerum** (Ph.D. 1995). Rich Margerum, chair of the session, summarized several themes that came through in the presentations. First, Steve's students said they were grateful for the time and energy that he put into their stay in Madison. His reading lists were sometimes daunting and his feedback could be overwhelming, but the energy he put into his teaching motivated his students to work harder. Second, for all of the former students, Steve has been a lifelong mentor. He has always been available to provide career advice, act as a sounding board, or offer suggestions for solving difficult problems. Third, he has instilled in his students the importance of understanding the institutional context and the need for integrated and regional approaches for solving complex problems. Finally, through his teaching and mentoring he has helped his students become leaders in their fields. This has meant understanding how to analyze problems, how to analyze complex settings, and how to consider the power dynamics to help determine their personal leadership roles.

Dan Rolfs (M.S. 2002) accepted a position in January as the Community Development Project Manager with the City of Madison. Prior to this move, Dan was a planner with MSA Professional Services, Inc. in Madison.

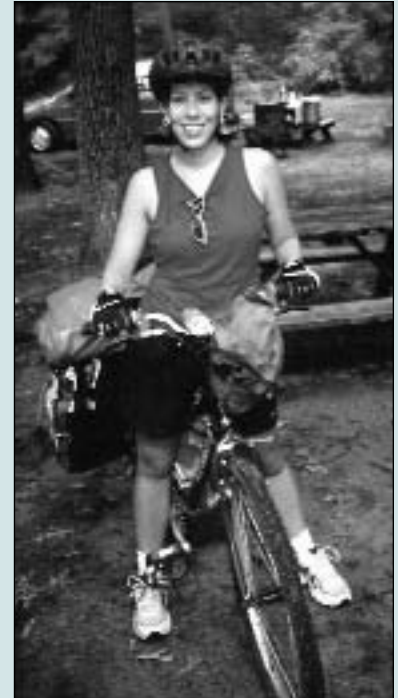
After a two-year stint with a small, private environmental consulting firm as an air quality specialist, **Bill Obermann** (M.S. 2003) is now working for the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) as a Transportation Planner specializing in bicycle, pedestrian, and transit

planning. Bill writes: "There are Wisconsinites all around me—one from the Geography program and my boss (Steve Cook), who graduated from UWM's planning dept. It's a great time to be here and really exciting to land a job I really wanted!"

Richard Haskell (M.S. 2005) accepted a position in Shenzhen, China (right across the border with Hong Kong) with EDAW, Inc., an interdisciplinary planning and design firm with 25 offices worldwide. Richard is working in the Economic Planning Division as an Economist.

In Memoriam

Jessica L. Bullen (M.S. 2004) died Sunday, July 3, 2005, from injuries sustained in a vehicle-bicycle accident in the Town of Cottage Grove, Wisconsin. She was 29 years old. Jessica accomplished a great deal in her short life. She grew up in Dexter Michigan, lived in Chicago, and traveled extensively before settling in Madison. She graduated with honors from Earlham College in 1998 and recently finished her graduate work in URPL. In recognition of her academic achievements and leadership within the community, the URPL faculty awarded her the AICP Outstanding Student of the Year award. Jessica delighted those close to her with her youthful exuberance, playfulness, and curiosity about the world around her. She poured her unlimited energy into local activities, such as the Quann community garden, promotion of public transportation, and bicycle use.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Mark Vanderschaaf (M.S. 1985)

Planning is a second career for Mark Vanderschaaf. After receiving his doctorate in Religious Studies in 1979 and spending four years as a humanities professor, Mark decided planning was his true calling. He graduated from URPL in the spring of 1985 with a focus on economic plan-

ning under the guidance of the legendary Jack Huddleston. Mark then began working full-time as a policy analyst for the Wisconsin Department of Development, where he worked on economic development projects throughout the state.

Today Mark Vanderschaaf is the Director of Planning and Growth with the Twin Cities Metropolitan Council. There are 189 municipalities in 7 counties that fall under the umbrella of the Council, which plans and runs several major regional systems, such as the urban service area and the transit system. He currently manages 40 people and is instrumental in managing the GIS system of the Council.

In 1994, Mark initiated a major collaborative effort of more than 50 upper Mississippi River communities that culminated with an event last summer called the “Grand Excursion 2004.” Over 1 million people saw the main event, a flotilla of paddle wheels and steamboats that made its way from the Quad Cities of Iowa and Illinois to the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, in celebration of the past and present life of riverfront communities. Joint educational programs reached over 50,000 students, and were aimed at creating the next generation of stewards for the river.

Mark strongly believes that local history and literature can play a role in urban and metropolitan development that often isn't recognized, and has this advice for students of all ages: “Don't specialize too much. The more you know, the better off you are. It is hugely valuable to know the history and culture of an area; what you're really dealing with is a community encompassing *everything*.”



David Wohlwil (M.S. 1984)

Following his graduation from URPL in 1984, David Wohlwil worked first with the New York State Department of Transportation and then moved to a position with the Port Authority in Pittsburgh, where he has been for the past sixteen years.

David's work integrates his interests in transportation and urban issues. In his work at the Port Authority, he interacts daily with many different local officials, stakeholders, community groups and state and federal environmental and transportation staff. “I'm involved in various modes of public transit such as on-street bus, buses on busways, light rail and commuter rail. My VISTA community work, which I did prior to going to URPL, provided great experience in working with the various City of Pittsburgh community groups. I'm also fortunate to be able to apply my knowledge of and interest in history to my job.”

Currently, David's work promotes transit-oriented development and bus rapid transit; he represented Port Authority on the Federal Transit Administration's Bus Rapid Transit Working Group 2003–2005. He is also working to identify the next program of transit projects for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Region. David coordinated preparation of the Port Authority's “New Starts” submittal (to the federal government) for the North Shore Connector Project, and he was the project manager for the planning and environmental studies portion of the project.

David has fond memories of his time at URPL. David enjoyed the companionship of his fellow students. He recalls that the URPL instructors were engaging and, in particular, remembers the late Leo Jakobson's advice to “drink the plan.” The planning workshop at URPL provided a good introduction to comprehensive planning and the regional planning course provided good background on the roles of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and the importance of understanding institutional relationships. He feels that the URPL courses in land use and transportation planning, and local government finance helped him understand and utilize analytical techniques in planning.

WHERE, OH WHERE, HAVE OUR ALUMS GONE??

URPL does not have current information for the following alumni. Do you know where they are? If so, please let us know or have them contact the Department. Thanks.

A

Khalid R. Mahdi Al-Samarraie (MS 1975)
Warren T. Anderson (MS 1967)
Robert M. Arnstein (MS 1973)
Arsegianto (MS 1984)

B

Autumn A. Baker (MS 1992)
Sujit Banerji (MS 1968)
Isaac Barrow (MS 1999)
Isabel Katherine Benziger (MS 1971)

C

Juan Carlos Crespo (MS 1983)—Bolivia

E

Dean R. Evans (MS 1960)

F

Regina Kirk Francis (PhD 1981)
Tetsuya Fukunaga (MS 1992)

J

Muhamadou L. Jeng (MS 1984)
Malcolm L. Johnson (MS 1970)

L

Winston (Wen-Tsuen) Lee (MS 1969)

M

Kok Hoi Mak (MS 1976)
Charles J. McCarthy III (MS 1996)
Valorie L. Monk (MS 1977)
Faith L. (Cholvin) Morello (MS 1983)

R

Kenneth F. Reinert (MS 1968)
Thomas W. Rodda (MS 1968)
Marc M. Rueter (MS 1972)

S

Jacob Segal (MS 1965)
Ian D. Shimmin (MS 1989)—Australia
Chiifen (Sophia) Su (MS 1989)

Keep Us Posted!

Please help! We are trying to modernize and update our alumni data. Your email address will help us keep track of you and facilitate communication when you want to contact your fellow alums.

Have you moved? Yes No

When did you graduate from URPL? _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Where are you working? _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Any comments or news to share?: _____

MAIL THIS FORM TO:

connections

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A Call for e-mail addresses

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