I wish to extend year-end greetings to you once again on behalf of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at UW–Madison.

We are at the end of the first semester of another exciting academic year. We were joined in the fall by a new class of 19 master’s students and 2 PhD students—all with strong academic backgrounds and a variety of life experiences from around the world. We saw a significant increase in the number of applications for admissions to the department’s two programs. Part of the increase is undoubtedly due to the difficult economic times as students turn to graduate school because of limited employment opportunities. However, the increase also reflects the growing awareness of the importance of planning to address a variety of issues confronting society.

New Directions

We continue to make improvements to the master’s program. As many of you are aware, over the past several years we have made some significant changes to the department’s curriculum. Students are now allowed to self-define an “area of specialization” and take advantage of the variety of courses offered in the department, and from the many excellent departments across the university, to specialize in areas such as sustainable development, food systems, transportation, housing, economic development, energy, land use, and many other areas.

We also require that all students take a core set of courses fundamental to the planning profession—Introduction to Planning, Methods of Planning Analysis, Planning and the Legal System, a course on the structure and function of cities and regions, a professional practice module, a planning workshop, and planning thought and practice.

The internship remains a central requirement for the master’s program. We thank the many alumni and friends of the department who have provided internship opportunities for the students and I ask that you continue to provide these opportunities. The internships provide practical experience that is critical to any professional degree program.

Our most recent change in the curriculum is the development of a master’s degree competency requirement to replace the “exit examination” that most of you are familiar with. The competency requirement is intended to establish that a student can demonstrate a high level of competency in the theories, methods, applications and ethics of planning. Students have two options for satisfying the competency requirement: a master’s thesis (an option that has always been available) or a professional project.

The professional project option requires that students write a ten-page paper and make a public presentation on a planning project related to their area of specialization, or a case-study that analyzes issues in a specific case or place. Students may take up to two credits of independent study to work on their project. We move into full implementation of this requirement this academic year and welcome your help in providing ideas for professional projects. Feel free to e-mail me your ideas at bwohm@wisc.edu.

Have a joyous holiday season and thank you for your continued support of URPL!
Learning from our own Web site

by Drew Stathus, URPL Webmaster

The phrase “server logs” may not conjure feelings of excitement and intrigue, but in reality this table of timestamps and IP addresses can coalesce in very interesting ways and paint a picture of what offerings attract the outside world to our department. We can see where our future students might come from (and thus where to focus our recruitment efforts), and also what more we can do to make our department’s knowledge readily accessible to the world!

One thing we have learned from our data is from which countries and cities people are looking at our Web site. The US and Madison, of course, are the most prevalent, but beyond the obvious we have found people from the following locations to be the most interested in what we do.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. China</td>
<td>1. Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Canada</td>
<td>2. Milwaukee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. India</td>
<td>4. Minneapolis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Iran</td>
<td>6. Seoul</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Taiwan</td>
<td>7. Beijing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. UK</td>
<td>9. Austin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Australia</td>
<td>10. San Francisco</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Who is sending people our way? The list below shows the top ten sites that send us Web visitors:

**Top Referring Sites**

1. Wisc.edu
2. Grad.wisc.edu
3. Planetizen.com
4. Nelson.wisc.edu
5. Planningaccreditationboard.org
6. Peacecorps.gov
7. Lafollette.wisc.edu
8. Forestandwildlifeecology.wisc.edu
9. Cals.wisc.edu
10. Uwex.edu

And once folks land on our page, where do they go? The most popular destination is our list of faculty. Trailing this is our academics page, which describes our degree programs in depth, followed by our page of admissions requirements and instructions. The fourth most popular page on our site is the list of job and internship opportunities. Fifth is the research page that summarizes ongoing research areas within URPL.

Of course, these days most folks just turn to Google to get to where they need to go. The following are the most popular search terms that bring users to our Web site:

1. Urban and regional planning;
2. URPL;
3. Urban planning; and
4. University of Wisconsin urban planning.

If you have any comments or suggestions as to what you as alumni and friends of the department would like to see made available on our Web site, please feel free to send suggestions to me at stathus@wisc.edu.

**INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT URPL ALUMNI**

From time to time it is interesting to reflect on who we are as an URPL community. Alumni are a critical part of the URPL community. Based on recent information from the Wisconsin Alumni Association, we know that URPL has 969 living alumni. Of the living alumni, 66% are male and 34% are female. The average age of our alumni is 52. Approximately 21% of our alumni are age 63 and older. A whopping 49% of our alumni are baby boomers (ages 44–62). Generation X alumni (ages 31–43) make up 22% of our alumni while Generation Y (age 30 and younger) makes up just 7% of URPL alumni.

In addition, we know that 32% of URPL graduates live in Wisconsin. Of that number, 65% live in Dane County and only 7% are in the Milwaukee area. Following Wisconsin, both California and Minnesota are tied with each being home to 7% of our alumni. In California, most of our alumni are located in the Los Angeles area, followed by the San Francisco area. In Minnesota, most alumni are located in the Twin Cities. Illinois is next with 6% of our alumni (with most in the Chicago area), followed by Florida (4%), Maryland (primarily the Washington, D.C. area), Washington, and Colorado (each with 3%), and New York with 2% (primarily in New York City). Finally, 9% of URPL graduates live outside the United States.
Dispatch from the Wisconsin Student Planning Association

by Adam Smith (MS candidate)

The Wisconsin Student Planning Association (WSPA) has had a busy and successful beginning to the 2009–10 academic year. WSPA acts as a resource for URPL students, notifying them of planning-related events and opportunities happening on campus and in Madison. In addition, WSPA is making a strong effort to provide students with professional development activities, as well as informal opportunities to gather with fellow students. These include upcoming workshops and guest speakers and topical discussions with URPL faculty.

Being a student at an institution as large as the University of Wisconsin–Madison can be incredibly intimidating. With this in mind, a number of second-year students have organized a mentorship program for first-year URPL students, offering advice about courses, professors, and internships, and answering other questions. Another goal for WSPA this year is to engage our peers at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and other planning students around the Upper Midwest. We’re hoping to cosponsor a poster session and some other events during the spring semester. WSPA is also acting as a conduit of information between the department and students, ensuring that student feedback reaches the faculty and that students are aware of important decisions impacting the curriculum.

Finally, we’re always looking to hear what URPL alumni are doing. We have created a page on LinkedIn.com. If you are a member, search for the group “URPL WSPA” and sign up. Also, if you would be interested in coming to campus and speaking to current students, e-mail Adam Smith at ansmith5@wisc.edu. We would love to hear from you!

FOLLOW UP FROM PLANNING WORKSHOP, FALL 2007

by Kurt Paulsen, Assistant Professor

URPL Workshop students in fall 2007 presented a report to the Jefferson County Farmland Conservation Easement Commission recommending strategies for agricultural preservation, including a purchase of agricultural conservation easements (PACE) program, to be implemented using a ranking system. The commission has moved forward on the recommendations, and has already established a PACE program with some funding.

The commission has also moved forward to implement a ranking system similar to the LESA (Land Evaluation and Site Assessment) system recommended in the student report. Public meetings to announce the program were held in Jefferson County in September and October.

University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and other planning students around the Upper Midwest. We’re hoping to cosponsor a poster session and some other events during the spring semester. WSPA is also acting as a conduit of information between the department and students, ensuring that student feedback reaches the faculty and that students are aware of important decisions impacting the curriculum.

Finally, we’re always looking to hear what URPL alumni are doing. We have created a page on LinkedIn.com. If you are a member, search for the group “URPL WSPA” and sign up. Also, if you would be interested in coming to campus and speaking to current students, e-mail Adam Smith at ansmith5@wisc.edu. We would love to hear from you!

URPL FACULTY LECTURE SERIES

October 6, Assistant Professor Susan A. Thering, (URPL affiliate faculty, Department of Landscape Architecture) presented “Transdisciplinary Action Research and the Planning and Design Professions: A Case Study Example from the Green Communities and Green Affordable Housing in Indian Country Initiative.”

November 3, URPL Assistant Professor Aslıgül Göçmen, presented “Are Conservation Subdivisions Living Up to Their Promise? Findings from Waukesha County.”

November 10, Knut Ingar Westeren, Professor of Economics, Organization, and Management (HiNT NORWAY), presented “Knowledge Economies—Converting Tacit to Explicit Innovation for New Economic Growth.”

December 1, Professor Stephen Malpezzi, (URPL affiliate faculty, Department of Real Estate and Urban Land Economics) presented “Real Estate Research and the Financial Crisis: Past Lessons, Future Directions?”

For presentation papers and additional information on the URPL Faculty Lecture Series, see the URPL Web site: urpl.wisc.edu/lectures.php.
THE FEDERAL STIMULUS: AN INTERN’S PERSPECTIVE
by Adam Smith (MS candidate)

(Note: the viewpoints expressed below are my own and are not those of the Wisconsin DOT)

In March, I began a project assistantship with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. After sixth months at the DOT, I have gotten an insider’s view of the process and politics surrounding the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA, better known to most of us as the federal stimulus program). I work in the Local Transportation Programs and Finance Section, which is tasked with managing the state and federal programs that fund transportation projects sponsored by cities, villages, towns, and counties. The bulk of my work with the section has been related to the tracking and implementation of local ARRA projects, which account for around 250 projects and more than $225 million.

One observation from my experience has been the difficulty of instating widespread procedural change in a short timeframe. Processes designed for specific program cycles and consistent timelines have been turned upside down to handle a crush of projects and policy goals that make speed a top priority. It has taken a great deal of work and time on the part of DOT staff for these processes to evolve. This may seem like the most obvious of conclusions, but with all of the talk of shovel-ready projects, projects that are truly shovel-ready are extremely rare. There is a multitude of (necessary!) steps through which a project must go before any sort of shovel is involved. Even so, the local planning process has seemed at times like an afterthought in the mad rush for communities to secure project funding.

In any case, I find myself laughing at the puns of which are already attempting to draw conclusions on the overall efficacy of ARRA, regardless of whether they are claiming “mission accomplished” or writing postmortems of the program. In truth, most of the projects handled in our office will not begin construction until next spring. It is not until then that many benefits of the program will be substantially realized. I imagine this is the case for many other DOTs, as well as other agencies charged with disbursing stimulus funds.

For every challenge, however, there is an opportunity. From my somewhat-outside position as a student, it seems as though some of the functional silos between areas of responsibility within the agency have been recognized and deconstructed, as information-sharing and cross-learning about other areas have been a necessary part of meeting the deadlines and keeping ARRA projects successfully on track.

Finally, I have been very impressed by the dedication and persistence that WisDOT staff has shown given extremely difficult circumstances. Staff has been asked to handle a great deal of work in a short timeframe, all while taking pay cuts via furloughs, dealing with a state hiring freeze and trying to manage the highly charged politics of managing stimulus funds. The opportunity to work with some outstanding individuals has helped me to learn a great deal about the day-to-day functioning of a state agency, particularly during a tremendously interesting—albeit challenging—time in its history.

Assistant Professor Asli Gocmen is the author of an article in the most recent issue of Journal of Planning Education and Research (vol. 29, no. 1) titled “Relationships between Residential Development and the Environment: Examining Resident Perspectives.”

Professor Jack Huddleston has been invited to Chengdu, China, to work with economists and economic planners there on a comparative analysis of the Chengdu-Chongqing region in China and the Great Lakes region in the U.S. The Chengdu-Chongqing region is a highly industrialized region that shares many similarities with Great Lakes states. His work there will focus on issues of urbanization, industrial transitions, and environmental impacts of industrialization. He will be working and lecturing at the Southwest University of Nationalities during late May 2010.

Professor Harvey Jacobs is the author of a chapter in a book published in June by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy: Property Rights and Land Policies, edited by G. K. Ingram and Y-H Hong; the chapter is titled “U.S. Private Property Rights in International Perspective.” In addition, he is the author of an essay in the June newsletter of the Small Town and Rural (StaR) Planning Division of the American Planning Association: “Planning is Un-American!”
(or, what to say when you are accused of being a communist).” Both are available for download from the Department’s Web site. Harvey is also the author of the preface in the recently published volume Perequazione E Qualità Urbana (Transfer of Development Rights and Urban Form), edited by C. Trillo and F. Forte, and published by Alinea Editore in Italy in summer 2009.

Harvey continues his program of professional, international training. In August he co-hosted a delegation from Trinidad and Tobago who came to the Land Tenure Center for a two week program on land management. In September he served as a one-week lecturer at the International Center for Land Policy Studies and Training in Taiwan as part of its six-week short course, Land Policy for Sustainable Rural Development. While there, he served as the inaugural lecturer at the new campus of National Taipei University’s Department of Real Estate and the Built Environment; the talk was titled “The Bark is Worse than the Bite: Legal and Social Conflict Over Expropriation after the U.S. Supreme Court’s Kelo Decision.”

Professor Jim LaGro authored an op-ed offering suggestions for the Obama administration’s economic stimulus package. The article, titled “Invest in Nature’s Infrastructure,” is posted on Planetizen at www.planetizen.com/node/36928.

Professor Dave Marcouiller returned to Norway in July and August to conduct applied tourism planning research on the Olav Duun Stenmet (a cultural festival in honor of novelist Olav Duun) with colleague Knut Ingar Westeren, Professor of Economics at North Trondelag University College in Steinkjer. Ingar also visited the Department in November to discuss his work on Knowledge Economies with URPL students and faculty colleagues.

Dave’s work on multi-functional rural landscapes has progressed with several recent publications. In October, a three-year Extension project culminated in the publication of an applied research monograph titled “Trails and Their Gateway Communities: A Case Study of Recreational Use Compatibility and Economic Impacts” (coauthored by Bob Kasmierski, Mike Kornmann, and Jeff Prey). Also, his Wisconsin SCORP work with Jeff Prey and Ian Scott (MS 2007) titled “The Regional Supply of Outdoor Recreation Resources: Demonstrating the Use of Location Quotients as a Management Tool” was published in the Journal of Parks and Recreation Administration during December. Professor Guangquing Chi (PhD 2006) of Mississippi State University and Dave also published an article titled “Isolating the Effect of Natural Amenities on Population Change at the Local Level” in the international journal Regional Studies. Finally, his multi-year project on exurbanization is culminating with an edited book (with Mark Lapping and Owen Furuseth) titled Rural Housing, published by Ashgate Press.

Assistant Professor Alfonso Morales was awarded a Faculty Diversity Research Award for the Fall semester of 2009 from the University of Wisconsin System to continue his research on street markets and food systems. In May, Morales also delivered a keynote address at the conference, “Urban Street Vending: Economic Resistance, Integration, or Marginalization?” at the Center for Metropolitan Studies: Berlin Technical University, Berlin, Germany. Finally, in October, Morales was invited to present “Scaling-up: What does it mean and how does it apply to Community Food Security?” at the “Race to the Top” Colloquia sponsored by the Community Food Security Coalition, in Des Moines.


Professor Brian Ohm has been appointed by Rod Nilsestuen, Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), to the new Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Council. The PACE program was created as part of the Wisconsin Working Lands Initiative passed by the Legislature as part of the state budget earlier this year. The council will advise DATCP on the administration of the PACE program.


In October, he presented “Housing Variety in the Suburbs: Historical Evolution and Trends, 1950–2000” at the Conference The Diverse Suburb, sponsored by the National Center for Suburban Studies at Hofstra University in New York.

Visiting scholar Haiyan Zhong, a lecturer (assistant professor) in the School of Politics and Sociology at the Southwest University of Nationalities in Chengdu, presented “Urban Agglomeration Cooperation Policy in Core Region of Upper Yangtze River” at the AsRES/AREUEA Joint International Conference in Los Angeles. Her presentation examines the system obstacle in the development of Chengdu-Chongqing urban agglomeration in upper Yangtze River of China, discovers the dual mechanisms, system innovation, and policy guarantee in the harmonious development of regional economy.
Matthew Birnbaum (PhD '99) was the co-editor of the Summer 2009 issue of New Directions for Evaluation (no. 122), a publication of the American Evaluation Association. The issue focused on “Environmental Program and Policy Evaluation: Addressing Methodological Challenges.”

Joshua Clements (MS ’09) has taken a position as a CNRED (Community, Natural Resources and Economic Development) educator with University of Wisconsin Extension in Walworth County, Wisconsin. He says, “I’m getting myself excited for the position, for the broad range of planning and development issues that I will have liberty to become involved with.”

Stacy Cook (MS ’09) has taken a position with Cambridge Systematics in Washington DC, where she will work in the Transportation Planning and Management division. She is excited about the professional opportunity and “to be living on the same street as Barack Obama!”

Kaye Exo (MS ’76) retired in 2003 after ten years of clinical social work with children and families and four years as a manager of a research center. Her current volunteer work includes educating the community about the needs of returning veterans and connecting children and teens to quality literature. She currently lives in Portland, Oregon, and maintains the blog “Grandma’s Book Letter” at www.grandmasbookletter.com. She says, “I continue to use the community planning practices Jerry Kaufman brought to our classes and field work.”

Dar (formerly Marjorie) Ward (MS ’00) currently works in the Commuter Solutions division of UW-Madison’s Transportation Services department. Her duties include promotion, planning, and analysis of the campus bus, employee bus pass, flex parking, emergency ride home, car sharing, park and ride, carpool, and vanpool programs as well as development of the biennial campus transportation survey. Dar also spent two years as a regional planner and bicycle/pedestrian coordinator for the Michiana Area Council of Governments (an MPO) in South Bend, Indiana, and almost five years as executive director of the Bicycle Federation of Wisconsin, a statewide non-profit education and advocacy organization.

Luiz Rocha Neto (MS ’72) is an associate professor in the urban and regional planning department at the Rio de Janeiro Federal University in Brazil, where he coordinates a China-Brazil interinstitutional program.

Samina Raja (PhD ’02) has been promoted to associate professor with tenure at the School of Architecture and Planning, University of Buffalo.

Joshua Clements (MS ’09) has taken a position as senior vice president of Thrive, the non-profit economic development organization for the greater Madison region. He left his position as senior vice president of development with T. Wall Properties to take on his new job.

Michael A. Rodriguez (MS ’09) is a Transportation Analyst with Cambridge Systematics in Bethesda, Maryland. He is also actively engaged with the Center for Understanding the Built Environment (CUBE) and teaching planning concepts to children. He published an article in Planetizen, available online at www.planetizen.com/node/40827.

Eric Stonebraker (MS ’03) began in the PhD program in architecture and planning at the University of Colorado Denver in fall 2009. He received a National Science Foundation Integrated Graduate Education Research Traineeship to study sustainable urban infrastructure. His research interests include land use planning and transportation, specifically how the built environment influences travel behavior. He has begun research on bicycle access to transit.

Ashley Wallace (MS ’09) is living in Baltimore, Maryland, working with the Central Baltimore Partnership nonprofit on neighborhood and economic development. She says, “The job is going really well, and am loving this city and hope to stay for awhile!”

In Memoriam

Gourgen (Hugo) Melikian (MS, ’06) died unexpectedly of a heart attack in Sumbe, Angola, on September 5, 2009 while working on a peri-urban electrification project for USAID. He was buried in Yerevan, Armenia, his beloved homeland, on September 22, 2009.

Born on February 3, 1966 in Yerevan, Armenia, Gourgen was a “child of the world.” He lived and worked on three continents during his lifetime, including his years in Madison at URPL. He mastered six languages as he worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the world’s poorest. He freely shared his passion and tremendous talent for music with those around him. Though his life was tragically cut short, he lived each day to better his world and those who knew and loved him will forever be inspired by his example to do the same.

He is survived by his wife, a daughter, his parents, a sister, a brother, and three step-daughters.

George Wood (MS, ’68), passed away on October 1, 2009. George worked as a planner for the Wisconsin Department of Local Affairs and Development, which is now the Department of Commerce, until his retirement.
DEPARTMENT OF URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING
University of Wisconsin–Madison

URPL’s faculty and staff continually strive to enhance UW–Madison’s credentials as a great place for graduate education in urban and regional planning. Gifts to the department help us enhance the student-learning experience that our State-budgeted funding simply cannot support.

Please consider giving a gift of any size. Your donation will help to educate the next generation of planning professionals.

Please give online through our Web site: urpl.wisc.edu/giving.php, or mail this form along with a check payable to “University of Wisconsin Foundation” to:

Name _____________________________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________________________________
City __________________________________  State  __________Zip _________________

☐ My gift of $ ___________ is enclosed.
☐ My company’s matching gift form is enclosed.
☐ I wish to remain anonymous.

Where would you like your gift directed?

☐ Jerome Kaufman Scholarship Fund $ __________
in honor of Emeritus Professor Jerry Kaufman.

☐ Richard B. Andrews Scholarship Fund $ __________
in memory of Emeritus Professor Richard Andrews.

☐ Born Environmental Stewardship Fund $ __________
in honor of Emeritus Professor Stephen Born.

☐ Department of Urban and Regional Planning Fund $ __________
supports a variety of departmental activities and programs, including:
  ■ the Wisconsin Student Planning Association (WSPA)
  ■ graduate student travel to professional meetings
  ■ alumni receptions at APA and ACSP meetings, and
  ■ publication of the Connections newsletter.

All contributions are tax deductible.

To make a deferred donation, a gift through payroll deduction, or a life income or estate gift, please contact Ann Dingman at the University of Wisconsin Foundation: 608–265–9954 or ann.dingman@uwfoundation.wisc.edu.

Thank you … we appreciate your support
Keep Us Posted!

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

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
Department of Urban and Regional Planning
University of Wisconsin–Madison
Old Music Hall, 925 Bascom Mall
Madison, WI 53706-1317
E-mail: pacantre@wisc.edu

A call for e-mail addresses | Visit us at our Web site: urpl.wisc.edu