The fall semester is in full swing here at CSUN. The department has already welcomed several guest speakers this semester. Chih-Hao Wang from Ohio State University, James Rojas from Place It, and Yodan Rofe from Ben Gurion University of the Negev in Israel. In addition, in early October several department alumni gave a panel presentation to graduating seniors on applying and preparing for graduate school (Mike Mendez, Carlos Hernandez, and Nareh Nazary). On Saturday, 9 November, the department’s student organization, The Urban Planning Students of Northridge (UPSN), hosted nearly 100 participants on the CSUN campus at the 8th Annual Student Symposium of the Los Angeles County Section of the American Planning Association. With about 100 undergraduate majors and 20 graduate students enrolled in the MPA/Urban Planning Specialization this fall, the rest of the academic year promises to be fruitful.

Urban Studies and Planning alumni and graduating seniors had an exciting evening speed mentoring on Wednesday, April 24, 2013. It was a whirlwind of excitement as the students only had 7 minutes to meet with each mentor. The first round focused on reviewing resumes. The next topic was cover letters. This round was a little more difficult because there was no specific job that the cover letter was addressing. The final two topics were interview questions and job-seeking advice. The mentors were free to ask the students the most horrible interview questions they could conceive. And the report from the students is that they did get stumped once or twice. However, they weren’t left empty-handed. The mentors gave them good advice on how to answer these tough questions so that they are ready for their actual interviews. Similarly, with job-seeking advice the mentors helped suggest paths to finding career jobs. It was a fun, energizing evening. The students appreciated all the help and good advice. We are looking forward to hosting the event again in spring 2014.
I best places to build our homes. They have communities and helping to determine the years have helped so much to get to this point interns that we have had over the last couple She writes “The Urban Planning Department URBS alumni, is the Neighborhood Mills, a former student intern herself and an veterans in Sylmar and Santa Clarita. Bridgett internship partner with our department. It is Habitat for Humanity SF/SCV is a long term worth. In addition to the local Metro buses the transit station hosts the AVTA 676 Line, to and from Antelope Valley, and the CSUN Metrolink Shuttle Service.

The Transit Station is expected to relieve car traffic on campus and the need for more parking structures.

**CSUN TRANSIT STATION**

California State University, Northridge’s new transit center, on campus at the intersection of Darby Avenue and Vincennes Street, officially opened for service in Spring 2013.

“The station will offer Cal State Northridge public transportation passengers a convenient on-campus location to be dropped off or picked-up on weekdays (with no weekend service),” said Capt. Alfredo Fernandez of CSUN parking and transportation services.

The station is a stop for both local and non-local public transportation. Local Metro lines such as the 741 Rapid and 167 Metro local buses run normal hours. The 741 makes its daily route between the campus and Ventura Boulevard, in the south end of the valley. Bus 167 runs between Studio City and Chats-

**Faculty Achievements**

Kenya Covington was elected as the member of Urban Affairs Association Emerging Scholar Selection Committee, 2014 and presented a paper “Residential Segregation and the Suburbanization of the Poor: Understanding the Links.” at the 43rd Annual Urban Affairs Association meeting, April 3-6, 2013; San Francisco, CA.


Craig Olwert participated in APA training seminar on Sustainable Zoning and Development at Seattle, WA, on June 13-14, 2013.


Zeynep Toker’s paper “Good Cities and Healthy Communities in the United States” has been published on Urban Design and Planning Journal, Special Issue on Quality of Life, 165:3, 137-145, 2012 (with Minassians, H.)


**Habitat for Humanity**

Habitat for Humanity SF/SCV is a long term internship partner with our department. It is currently building low income homes for veterans in Sylmar and Santa Clarita. Bridgett Mills, a former student intern herself and an URBS alumni, is the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative Manager for Habitat. She writes “The Urban Planning Department interns that we have had over the last couple years have helped so much to get to this point by tracking our impact in our other communities and helping to determine the best places to build our homes. They have helped us track our results in our civilian Pacoima community by going out to our Pacoima site and interviewing every family, house by house. They tally up the results and track the changes from the previous years. This tracking system has allowed our Habitat to continue to build more homes, and to now be able to provide the same program for our veterans. In addition, the students who have worked with us have helped us to create maps showing the high population of veterans by zip codes and where the most need for veteran housing would be. We used that data to choose the site where we are building in Sylmar and in Santa Clarita. They help on our construction site, enrichment services, research on housing and much more. Our CSUN interns are extremely important to the progress and success of our affiliate.”

In the last three years several students have interned at Habitat SF/SCV. These have included Anna Cordova, Alen Estrada, Albert Munoz , Miranda Santisteban, Diana Benitez, Alisha Marshall and Anna Litvinchuk.
Susan Ward (1982) is a property developer who specializes in historic rehabilitation and designation projects in Pagosa Springs, CO.

Eduardo Fuentes (1989) works in Stockton, CA as an associate transportation planner for the California Department of Transportation.

Linda Jones (1990) is a member of the Board of Trustees for the Union School District in Quartz Hill, CA.

Veronica (Orozco) Castañon (1996) is a public health social worker for Ventura County Public Health in Oxnard, CA. She recently completed her MA in school counseling.

Rosalina Salazar (1998) is a school psychologist for the Los Angeles Unified School District. She recently completed a MA in educational counseling.

Mark Chapa (2004) is an outreach coordinator for the VA Community Clinic in Lancaster, CA.

Carlos Contreras (2006) works as an assistant planner for the City of Palmdale, CA.

Freddy Carrillo (2006) is a commissioner for the City of Los Angeles on the city’s Quality and Productivity Commission. He is also employed as a planner in the City of Moorpark.

Matthew Waterman (2007) is an investment broker with Pegasus Investment in Los Angeles. He has been with the company over 13 years.

Rena Kambara (2007) is a regional planning assistant for zoning enforcement with the department of regional planning for the County of Los Angeles.

Tracy D. Williams (2007) is employed by the Los Angeles Department of Transportation. She has recently completed her MURP from Cal Poly Pomona.


Christopher Marks (2009) is a CEQA analyst with TRA Environmental Sciences in Menlo Park, CA.

Mike de Young (2009) is the office manager of DeYoung’s Automotive in Canoga Park, CA.


Ralph Sansano (2010) is a graduate student in architecture at SCI-Arc in Los Angeles where he is also a teaching assistant.

Anna Cordova (2011) lives in Los Angeles and is currently working as a free-lance planner.

Joshua Van Gundy (2011) completed his MPA/Urban Planning specialization at CSUN in Spring 2013. He has since accepted a position with the US Border Patrol in San Diego, CA.

Tammy Williams (2011) has been working as a technician for the Conejo Valley Open Space Conservation Agency. She has also been using GIS and creating maps for the General Plan Update of Thousand Oaks, CA.

Alain Babaian (2012) is a real estate agent in Glendale, CA. He is also enrolled in the MPA/Urban Planning specialization program at CSUN.

Gurgen Yesayan (2012) is a planning intern for the City of La Canada-Flintridge and is currently enrolled in the MPA/Urban Planning specialization program at CSUN.

Lilyana Morejon (2012) is serving as an AmeriCorp Vista volunteer and working with the Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation in Ventura, CA.

John Green (2012) is a transportation planning assistant at METRO in Los Angeles.

Nareh Nazary (2012) is an intern at METRO in Los Angeles and is currently working on her MRUP at Cal Poly Pomona.

Joshua Ogaldez (2013) is attending Azusa Pacific University’s Haggard School of Theology. He has received the prestigious Kern Scholarship from the university.

Enrique Rubalcava and Nara Gasparian were the recipients of the James H. Ring Scholarship for 2012/13. Both students received scholarships awards of $1000 in recognition of their academic achievements. This scholarship is named for its founder, James H. Ring, an alumni of the department (1972).

Andrew Kent, a junior in the department, received a scholarship of $1,000 from California Planning Foundation.

URBS Student Association hosted the 8th Annual APA Student Symposium on November 9, 2013.

Urban Planning Students Association elected new officers in Spring 2013

Amy Turnbull (President)
Diana Benitez (Vice President)
Analisa Campos (Treasurer)
Elena Camacho (Historian)
Rawan Aljamal (Secretary)

URBS department offered a “Graduate Education Night: Department Alumni Panel on Grad Schools and Options” on October 14, 2013.

“Graduates” MPA/Urban Planning Specialization – Spring 2013

Redel Avila
Julie Brooks
Josue Chavez
Chavez
Arsen Dervishian
Sarah Ekeberg
Diana Huezo
Brittany Jackson
Ruben Khosdikian
Yvette Lopez

Michael Norberg
Christopher Palmer
Nasim Pasallar
Norma Rodriguez
Ryan Thompson
Suzan Tovmasyan
Joshua Van Gundy
Nancy Vazquez
Gerald Wooten
Kevin Villalta

Our long-time office administrator Bennie Say resigned in September. Bennie accepted a promotion at CSUN and now works in the Music Department. She created a pleasant environment in the office and offered tremendous help to everyone.

We recently welcome Pat Ordonez as the department's temporary administrative support coordinator. Welcome Pat! Pat is an alumni of CSUN with a BA in Sociology. She also has worked as a student assistant and a teaching assistant on campus previously!
The goal of our newsletter, The URBS Post is to maintain communication between our alumni, faculty, and current students.

We love correspondence from our alumni! Please keep in touch with us—we would like to know what you are doing now, along with learning about exciting events in your life. We welcome new information to be included in our upcoming newsletters. Please also keep us updated on home and e-mail address changes.

Internships
We are trying to expand our internship program. Let us know if your company offers internships and we will share this information with our majors.

Donations
Please consider giving: no donation is too small. Donating provides both financial support and encouragement to students. Information on ways to give can be found at: https://givenow.csun.edu/

Let us know if you have suggestions on how we can improve our newsletter. We hope to hear from you soon!!

If you would like to send us information for the upcoming issues, or if you have any questions, contact the Newsletter Editor, Dr. Mintesnot Woldeamanuel at mintesnot.woldeamanuel@csun.edu; phone: 818-677-7246 or the Chair of the Department Dr. Rob Kent at rkent@csun.edu; phone: 818-677-4372.