We are thrilled to announce that Urban Studies and Planning Department is currently accepting applications for the first cohort of the long anticipated Master of Urban Planning degree, which will start in August 2015. You can find more information about the application process on our website: www.csun.edu/urbanstudies.

In the fall semester we have welcomed two guest speakers: James Rojas from Place It and John Perfitt from Restore Neighborhoods LA. The annual Graduate Education Night event featured Urban Studies and Planning alumna Nareh Nazary (’12) and Dr. Olwert. The department’s student organization, the Urban Planning Students of Northridge (UPSN) hosted a screening of the film Silent River, a depiction of a family’s struggle to clean up the most polluted river in Mexico.

Urban Studies and Planning Department Chair, Dr. Kent, took a sabbatical leave and he will complete his year long sabbatical leave at the end of Spring semester.

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning will start its first Masters program in Fall 2015. The Master of Urban Planning provides a broad based education in urban planning, especially as it is practiced in the State of California, where a wide range of state laws and mandates have created a planning environment which is distinct from its practice in much of the rest of the United States. The degree’s curriculum is thoroughly grounded in the academic and applied dimensions of the profession. Classroom experience emphasizes key theoretical aspects of urban planning, while practical exercises and field experiences address how planning problems are addressed at the local and regional level. The 36 credit-unit master’s degree in urban planning is designed to be completed in two calendar years. The degree program is cohort driven with new class cohorts beginning in the fall semester. This degree is designed especially to serve the needs of working students and professionals. Classes are scheduled for evenings and Saturdays and are scheduled sequentially over the course of the two year program. It is intended that the students receive as much exposure to different professional planning environments as possible through field experiences and assignments in the Los Angeles metropolitan area.

For more information: http://www.csun.edu/social-behavioral-sciences/urban-studies-planning/ma-urban-planning

Application Deadline: May 15, 2015
**Graduates**

[Bachelor in Urban Studies and Planning ]

(Spring 2014)

Rawan Al-Jamal  
Eduardo Arias-Ramos  
Amani Austin  
Diana Benitez  
Gianna Borsotti  
Elena Camacho  
Cynthia Campana  
AnaLisa Campos  
David Canlas  
Sergio Carvajal  
Jose Coyotl  
Cristina Cruz  
Farnum Darabi  
David de la Cruz  
Alvin Estrada  
Nara Gasparian  
Gloria Giraldo  
Luca Guastaferro  
Jose Ibarra  
Andrew Kent  
Andereh Kheshadoorian  
Charles Love  
Jorge Martinez  
Terrence McBride  
Melodi McGee  
Ricardo Meza  
Babak Mirabadi  
Albert Munoz  
Natalie Ng  
Silvia Nunez  
Robert Paez  
Rafaela Partida  
Hailey Rogers  
Jazmin Roque  
Enrique Rubalcava  
Bryan Santos  
Cody Starr  
Amy Turnbull  
Dejanee Williams  
Yumi Yamaguchi

**Campus News**

More electric car chargers to campus parking lots

In continuing to work toward reducing commuter emissions and miles by faculty, staff and students, CSUN has added more electric vehicle charging stations on campus while mechanical engineering students developed alternative energy charging stations. An updated set of electric charging stations were installed on campus in fall of 2013, as part of the campus sustainability plan. The plan to reduce emissions and pollution was first enabled in fall 2012 by CSUN President Dianne Harrison, through the CSUN Institute for Sustainability and Physical Plant Management. The current charging stations acquire power through the existing electrical power stored in CSUN’s main power grid, which consists of traditional and solar energy. There are currently eight electric vehicle charging stations on campus. Two stations are located in the F5 parking lot. There are stations in B4, G3 and G9. Additional stations will be located in B2 and G4 parking lots.

**Faculty Achievements**

Kenya Covington participated in the cosponsored UCLA, USC, and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) summer Pre-Doctoral Workshop for Students of Color on July 20th through July 24th, 2014. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce promising students of color to planning doctoral study and prepare students to apply and succeed in doctoral programs. Dr. Covington presented on the faculty panel: Why Get a Ph.D. in Planning?, moderated by June Manning Thom-as, Ph.D., University of Michigan and ACSP Diversity Committee Chair.

Rob Kent has been elected recently to a three-year term as a member of the Board of Directors of the Conference of Latin American Geographers (CLAG), a scholarly organization dedicated to the advancement of research and publication on Latin American geography. Dr. Kent also serves as the treasurer of the organization and is a member of its executive committee.

Craig Olwert has become the codirector for the Center for Geographical Studies.

Henrik Minassians’ paper “Performance Measures and Its Pitfalls: An Exploratory Study” has been published on California Journal of Politics and Policy, Jan. 2014.


Mintesnot Woldeamanuel presented his research “Multimodality and Active Living: Connectivity of the Bus Rapid Transit with Pedestrians and Bicycle Facilities” at the Active Living Research Annual Conference (ALR 2014) held March 9-12, 2014 at San Diego, CA.

**Internship Partner – City of Santa Clarita**

Over the last four years, Santa Clarita’s Planning Division has partnered with both the Urban Studies and Planning and Public Administration programs at CSUN to provide students the opportunity to obtain real world experience. With the help of interns, city planners have adopted a new General Plan written jointly with the City of Los Angeles, a new citywide zoning code that implements the new General Plan, written and adopted the city’s first form-based code for the Lyons Avenue corridor, and written and adopted the city’s first Climate Action Plan (CAP). The Planning Division prides itself with giving interns the experience needed to smoothly transition into planning technician roles at any jurisdiction. “Having the ability to work the planning counter during my time as an intern gave me the experience that many do not get. Whether I was answering phones, reviewing site plans, or providing residents with zoning information, the experience that I gained put me ahead of the game” said Cynthia Campana, a former intern. Under direct supervision, interns are able to answer planning questions over the phone and approve minor development projects over the planning counter. Interns are also assigned development projects such as sign reviews, temporary use permits, oak tree permits, and development reviews. Because of the extensive training we give our interns, we are proud to say that all have gone onto graduate schools or entry level jobs within the profession. Our most recent interns from CSUN that have recently attained jobs. Those include; Brenda Magana, Planning Tech, City of Malibu; Amanda (Lafond) Chiancola, Planning Tech, City of Malibu, Cynthia Campana, Planning Tech, City of Santa Clarita. For more information about our program or to learn about internship opportunities with the City, contact Mike Ascione at mascione@santa-clarita.com.

By Mike Ascione
In April 2014, students from Birmingham Community Charter High School visited our department for a close look at the field of urban studies and planning. They attended the department’s annual event called Students Research Forum. They were curious and asked several questions. The Education Officer of Birmingham Community Charter High School, Mrs. Lindsey Surendranath, said students got good exposure in the field that helps them navigate their future. Upon their arrival to campus, the students received a brief campus tour.
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!!