The fall semester began on a very positive note for the department’s students and faculty, as we finished the renovation of our computer lab and classroom over the summer and opened the new lab to students on the first day of classes. The lab now has 20 new computers, state-of-the-art computer desks, and updated software for GIS and other graphics programs. The lab renovation was financed by a generous donation from department alumnus James H. Ring as well as financial support from CSUN’s College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The department’s graduate program is prospering, and we recently welcomed 16 new graduate students to our second cohort of the Master of Urban Planning (MUP). With a new computer lab, an energetic and hardworking faculty, and enthusiastic and committed students, 2016-17 promises to be another positive and productive academic year.
**Campus Spotlight**

**ZIPCAR: CSUN’s Car Rental Program**

In 2014, Associated Students introduced Zipcar, a program for students of Cal State Northridge to rent cars on an hourly basis. Individuals can rent the cars for as long as they need them, from a few hours up to days at a time. Two months after the introduction of Zipcar to CSUN, reports show high usage, as Associated Students (AS) continues to educate more students about the program. Ken Premo, Manager of Support Services for AS, who oversees the Zipcar program, said after two months of use Zipcar has reported that the usage rate for the vehicles is just over 37 percent. Due to the 30% to 40% usage rate during the spring 2016 semester, the Zipcar program expanded this fall. There are now a total of eight cars in three locations on campus. CSUN has also launched the Zipcar’s “One-Way” program allowing users to take a car from one location and drop it off at another location.

**URBS Shelf: Faculty Publications**

**Concepts in Urban Transportation Planning**

*The Quest for Mobility, Sustainability and Quality of Life*

Mintesnot G. Woldeamanuel

Dr. Mintesnot Woldeamanuel, Associate Professor of the Urban Studies and Planning Department, published a new book: “Concepts in Urban Transportation Planning: The Quest for Mobility, Sustainability and Quality of Life” (2016). This book offers solutions for creating sustainable urban transportation.

**Latin America: Regions and People**

Second Edition

Robert B. Kent

Dr. Rob Kent, Chair of the Urban Studies and Planning Department, published the second edition of his book “Latin America: Region and People” (2016). The book provides an authoritative overview of Latin America’s human geography as well as its regional complexity.

**The Limits of Social Change**

José Amando Hernández, Ph.D.

Dr. Jose Hernandez, Professor Emeritus and the former Director of the Urban Studies Program, published a book “The Limits of Social Change: The Case of a Mexican American Community” (2015). The book is a case study of the Mexican American community of San Fernando, a small city that has been at the heart of progressive forces.

**Zimride: CSUN Car Sharing Program**

In Spring 2016, a new ridesharing program called Zimride was introduced to the campus community. The program was started by a group of college students who were frustrated by the lack of commuting services available to them. Those students created Zimride to afford people a safer and more sustainable way of traveling to and from campus. Students can sign-up for the service with ease by visiting the website www.zimride.com/csun. The system will match up with students with similar criteria, and then send the pair an email prompting them to connect on Facebook.

**Community Partnership: LAPD**

Over the past three years, The Urban Studies and Planning Department has been working with the Los Angeles and Pomona Police Departments, along with the local city council members, in order to identify and remedy built-environment effects on prostitution in two different locations in Los Angeles and the City of Pomona. In 2014, Dr. Minassians and a colleague from the Sociology Department started their collaborative work with the Los Angeles Police Department’s South Central Los Angeles 77th Division in order to identify built-environment and design components that generate and attract prostitution along the Figueroa corridor in South Central Los Angeles. In order to conduct this research and make concrete recommendations to LAPD, Dr. Minassians incorporated this research project within his URBS 490C – Field Work class. In 2015, ten students from the department conducted field work research examining the characteristics of the built environment and application of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. This allowed them to examine the types of physical neighborhood characteristics that have led to the prevalence of this type activity. After a semester of field work and examination of this location, Dr. Minassians and students from URBS 490C made specific recommendations and design concepts to Los Angeles Police Department and the councilmember from that district. Currently, Dr. Minassians is working with a few students in order to identify and tackle this issue in Pomona.
The Department of Urban Studies and Planning accepted its second cohort of students and classes began in Fall 2016. The department has a total of 34 students in the graduate program. The Master of Urban Planning program is now accepting applications for the Fall 2017 cycle! The priority application deadline is March 1st, 2017.

Mario Alberto Anaya (MPA ‘15) is an environmental planner with ICF International. He lives in Fullerton, CA.

Scott Cher (BA ‘08) is enrolled in the Master of Science in Regenerative Studies at California Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Palig Demirjian (MPA’12) is a project manager for the Shanghai Disneyland Resort in China.

Carlos Hernandez (BA ‘10) is the Bike Share Program Coordinator for the City of Oakland, CA. Carlos has been named the “Young Professional of the Year” by the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals. The association’s citation noted, “Carlos has developed and executed the framework for an equitable and inclusive bike share program in Oakland. He was instrumental in identifying best practices for an equitable bike share program and negotiating with both vendor and funding agencies to incorporate geographic equity for the siting of stations, intensive community outreach in the low-income areas of Oakland, and reduced low-income rates for annual and monthly memberships.”

Jose Daniel Jimenez (BA ‘02) is a city planner with the City of Commerce, CA.

Victor Kinsey (BA ‘13) is a partner, with his brother, in a new firm, Kinsey Aesthetics + Communications. The company specializes in advertising and design.

Michael Mendez (BA ‘01) is a visiting assistant professor in the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University in New Haven, CT. He teaches courses on environmental policy-making through the lens of social equity.

Coral O’Riley (BA ‘14) is a park ranger with the National Park Service. She works in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Todd Stokes (BA ‘99) retired as a police captain from the City of Glendale in 2015. He is now director of security for the Fashion Institute of Design and Manufacturing (FIDM) in Los Angeles.

Jose Daniel Jimenez (BA ‘02) is a city planner with the City of Commerce, CA.

Urban Planning Students Association elected new officers in Spring 2016

Susana Martinez (President)
Sarah Boylan (Vice President)
Aldo Ortega (Treasurer)
Raquel Menanno (Secretary)
Morgan Spadone (Media Manager)
Liz Golden (Event Coordinator)

Stephani Moran, a junior in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning attended a DC Summer Internship Program (2016)

Several students attended the Los Angeles Section of the American Planning Association in Pasadena on October 22-25, 2016. Dang Nguyen (2nd year Masters student) won the 2016 California Conference Poster Completion Award. Congratulations, Dang!

Many thanks to recent donors to the department: THANK YOU!

Manuel Arajo          Joyce Edelson
Daniel Becker         Reva Lanyon
Jaime Del Rio         James Ring
Nelli Derderian

We are thankful to our alumni who helped with “Speed Mentoring” in spring 2016, serving on panels that assess students cover letters and resume. THANK YOU!

Anna Vidal            Julie Newman
F. Andres Di Zitti     Vartan Adamian
Humberto Quintana     Josh Rubenstein
Nelli Derderian        Donna Rosser
Christine Parra        Marisol Zamar
Edgar Solis           Krystin Rice
Michelle Aragoness    Gurgen Yesayan
Israel Marin          Freddy Carrillo
Carlos Contreras      Richard Rosen

Charity Tolefree joined the department of urban studies and planning in Fall 2016 as a student assistant. She is a Psychology major at CSUN who transferred from Los Angeles City College. Charity likes travelling and enjoys meeting people. In her free time she mentors young people in her community. She aspires to be an educational counselor. WELCOME Charity!
The goal of The URBS Post is to maintain communication with our alumni, faculty, and students.

We love correspondence from our alumni! Please keep in touch with us. We would like to know what you are doing, along with learning about exciting events and accomplishments in your life. Please keep us updated on any changes of home and e-mail addresses.

**Internships**

We are expanding our internship program. Let us know if your company offers internships and we will share this information with our students.

**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/ or call 818-677-4372.

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 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.