



THE URBS POST

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Campus News</i>	2
<i>Graduates, Spring 2012</i>	2
<i>Faculty Achievements</i>	2
<i>Student Association</i>	2
<i>Alumni</i>	3
<i>Students' News</i>	3
<i>MPA-UP track</i>	3
<i>Contact us</i>	4

Full Time Faculty

Rob Kent (Chair), Ph.D.
Kenya Covington, Ph.D.
Craig Olwert, Ph.D.
Henrik Minassians, Ph.D.
Ward Thomas, Ph.D.
Zeynep Toker, Ph.D.
Mintesnot Woldeamanuel, Ph.D.

Part Time Faculty

Stefano Bloch, Ph.D.
Raul Bocanegra, M.A.
Euripedes De Oliveira, M.A.
David Gay, M.S.
Scott Howard, J.D.
Charles Keynejad, M.A.
Carl Morehouse, M.P.A.
Kaizer Rangwala, M.A.
Regina Sadono, Ph.D.
Christopher Teng, M.A.
Abhishek Tiwari, Ph.D.
Dev Vrat, M.A.
David Weintraub, M.A.
Claude Willey, M.A.

Staff

Bennie Say (Admin. Support Coordinator)
David Canlas (student worker)
Mercedes Ortiz (student worker)
Jazmin Roque (student worker)

Urban Studies and Planning
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
California State University
Northridge

FROM THE CHAIR



The start of the fall semester is always an exciting time on campus as everyone gears up for a productive and rewarding academic year. Enrollments in the department are strong and we are fortunate to have enthusiastic and committed students enrolled in our program and classes. We currently boast approximately 105 urban studies and planning majors as well as about 12 minors. In addition, the department graduated its first cohort of graduate students in the MPA/Urban Planning Specialization degree program in May 2012. This degree is offered in collaboration with the MPA program and Tseng College here at CSUN. A second graduate-student-cohort of approximately 20 students are now enrolled in the program is slated to graduate in Spring 2013. The department is currently recruiting for its next cohort of graduate students who will begin the program in Fall 2013.

The department continue to receive strong support from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and last year two new faculty members joined the department, Craig Olwert and Mintesnot Woldeamanuel. They both bring a wide range of experience and expertise to the department, and in the short time they have been here they have already helped us to enrich the academic experience we offer our students here in the department.

While these are indeed challenging times in California and especially in its public universities, the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at CSUN is healthy and is well-positioned to continue to offer strong academic programs to our students and to serve the needs of our immediate community in the San Fernando Valley as well as those in the Los Angeles region and California generally.

MEET THE "NEW" PROFESSORS



Dr. Craig Olwert joined the department in Fall 2011 as an assistant professor. He received his PhD from The Ohio State University in 2010 in City and Regional Planning. His research interests focus on urban economics, the environment and sustainability. He was a visiting professor at Ohio State teaching courses in theory, sustainable economic development, infrastructure, international planning, and two studios. He also worked for ExxonMobil as an engineer with assignments including air permitting and internal audit.



Dr. Mintesnot Woldeamanuel joined the department in Fall 2011 as an assistant professor. He received his PhD from Hokkaido University, Japan in 2007. Prior to joining CSUN, he worked as an assistant Professor in the Planning and Community Development Program of Saint Cloud State University, and as a Research Fellow in Transportation Research Institute of German Aerospace Center (DLR). He has conducted extensive research and written on the relationship among travel behavior, the environment and urban form.

GRADUATES

[Bachelor in Urban Studies and Planning]

(SPRING 2012)

Lurdes Alvarez

Alain Babaian

Jessica Adriana Barragan

Adams J. Bernhardt

Jason Avery Brown

Cherokee Cachet Cooper

Anna Cordova

Ismac Anthony Flores

Jose Angel Galdamez, Jr.

Zachary William Granat

John A. Green

Christopher K. Kalbaklian

Kevin Michael Kay

Kevin Wesley Kidd

Fipe Sammy-Ra Leilua

Colin P. Linebaugh

Alisha Jenae Marshall

Matthew Mooney

Jason-Roger C. Naanos

Nareh Nazary

Wai Ying Pang

Gail Lynne Pitters

Jeffrey Paul Roa

Miranda L. Santisteban

Joshua Miguel Schroder

Amal Shahin

Larry Daniel Shoemaker

Jose Luis Tamayo

Sonja Tristan

Wesley Vasquez

Gurgen Yesayan

David Zeetser

CAMPUS NEWS

CSUN Got a New President

Fall 2012 began with a new president for the University. The CSU board of trustees announced Dr. Dianne F. Harrison, former president of Cal State Monterey Bay, as CSUN's president. "I am excited and honored to be selected as president of another fine institution within the California State University system, and look forward to working together with the entire campus community on the many opportunities for the future," Harrison said in one of the press releases.

President Koester retired in Dec. 2011 after 11 years as president. Provost, Harry Hellenbrand, assumed the position of interim president throughout the spring 2012 semester.

President Harrison, prior to her appointment at CSU Monterey Bay, worked at Florida

State University, where she served for nearly 30 years in various capacities starting as a faculty member, then as dean of social work, associate vice president for academic affairs, dean of graduate studies and vice president for academic quality and external programs. A prolific researcher and writer, she has published dozens of articles and two books.



Dr. Harrison and her husband, John Wujack, live in Northridge and have two adult children. She grew up in Mobile, Alabama and Short Hills, New Jersey.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Kenya Covington was a Session Panelist at Annual Meetings of the American Planning Association, in Los Angeles, CA. The title of the session was "Creating Child and Age Friendly Communities."

Robert Kent, with Maura Huntz, has published a book chapter "Regional Patterns of Spanish-Language Newspaper Publication in the United States 1848-1992" pp., 167-182 in Facets of Social Geography: International and Indian Perspectives. edited by Ashok Dutt et al. New Delhi: Foundation Books, 2012.

Craig Olwert's paper "A Computable General Equilibrium Model of the City: Impacts of Technology, Zon-

ing, and Trade" has been published on Environment and Planning A. 44: 237-253, 2012.

Henrik Minassians, presented his paper "Performance Measures and Its Pitfalls: Strategies for Building a Quality Program in a Southern California Public Agency" on a conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Moscow, Russia, July 2011.

Zeynep Toker's paper "An Inclusive and Generative Design Process for Sustainable Urbanism: The Case of Pacoima" has been published on Journal of Urbanism: International

Research on Placemaking and Urban Sustainability 4(1): 57-80, 2011.

Ward Thomas presented a paper "The Effects of Globalization and the Economic Recession on the Wood Furniture Industry in the United States and Southern California" on Annual meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 2011.

Mintesnot Woldeamanuel's paper "Evaluating the Competitiveness of Intercity Buses in Terms of Sustainability Indicators" has been published on Journal of Public Transportation 15(3):77-96, 2012.

URBAN PLANNING STUDENTS OF NORTHRIDGE (UPSN) By Chris Hicks

The Urban Planning Students of Northridge (UPSN) was founded to:

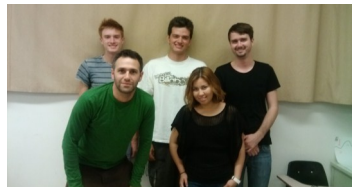
- Promote an ongoing exchange of information among students, student organizations, faculty, alumni, and the professional planning community.
- Develop and acquire knowledge of urban society through educational events.

- Represent the CSUN Urban Studies and Planning student body voice to the campus and the planning community.
- Provide opportunities for professional growth and networking.

For 2012 the UPSN focuses mainly on bringing professionals from the private and public sectors to convey to the student the inter-workings of the

planning profession. UPSN has also scheduled field trips in which students see in person what they learn in the classroom such as Transit Oriented Developments. UPSN thrives to provide bridges between the academic and the professional world. To this end, it plans to have an event at the end of the fall 2012 semester in which group of speakers from urban studies and planning graduate

programs help current student network and expose them to graduate studies.



UPSN executive committee members

<http://www.csunplanners.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/csun.planners>

ALUMNI

Andres Di Zitti, a 2012 graduate, has been a Transportation Planner with LA Metro. He recently transferred to the department of "Rail Service Planning and Project Development" for Metro.

Kristi G. Lopez, a 2007 graduate, has been a field representative for office of Assembly Member Portantino. She has also been Board Member of Pasadena Youth Center and was the Chair of the Adelante Mujer Latina Conference in 2012.

Christopher Gerry, a 2005 graduate, has been project manager of City of Anaheim – Community Development Department/ Redevelopment Agency. He coordinates federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) program.

Alexander S. Balkin, a 2008 graduate, has been contract specialist for the department of defense, in Washington D.C. and is now a member of the Virginia Bar.

Maximo Franco, a 2008 graduate, has been a Field Organizer/ Political Consultant for Warren Furutani for the LA City Council. He graduated with a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from UCI, with a Master Thesis on the California High Speed Rail: Station Area Design Opportunities .

Ryan Adams, a 2008 graduate, has been working as assistant Volleyball coach and gym supervisor at the city of Tukwila, WA.

Noah Muhlstein, a 2012 graduate, has been a Real Estate Agent at the John Aaroe Group in Los Angeles.

Matthew Correia, a 2009 graduate, has been a production assistant for Bandito Brothers/ Coyote Films. He has been doing a free lance photography and graphic design work.

John Paul Ramirez, a 2010 graduate, has been working in church as a youth ministry coordinator. He has been interning with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles within the department of Justice and Peace, specifically with a program called the Catholics Campaign for Human Development.

Janet Bryant, a 2006 graduate, has been Administrative Manager for Graphic Elements INC. Co-owner of Event and Marketing Consulting, she has been planning large events for Japanese American National Museum, UCLA , and fundraiser for Japan Rebuild. She has also Involved in the Neighborhood Council Green Project and the San Fernando Valley Green Building Education Conference.

Myrna Jimenez, a 2009 graduate, has been an AutoCAD Engineering Specialist at Troy Acoustics Corporation and Interior Design Intern at Princess Cruises in Santa Clarita.

STUDENT NEWS

Diane Benitez and Yumi Yamaguchi were the recipients of the James H. Ring Scholarship for 2011/12. 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).

Jose Tchopourian, a junior in the department, received a scholarship of \$1,000 from California Planning Foundation.

The department welcomes three Brazilian exchange students, **Leonardo Cavalcanti, Rafael Mascarenhas and Adriana Machado** from Federal University of Goias and Federal University of Uberlandia in Brazil. They will spend Fall 2012 in the department taking urban studies and planning classes .

Matthew Mooney and Antonio Villaraigosa participated in the California Transportation Foundation's annual Educational Symposium for students and professionals in transportation in early November 2011. They were nominated by the department and were guests of the foundation at the event.

Twelve Urban Studies and Planning student attended the 2012 APA annual meeting held in Los Angeles. They were supported financially by the department through a generous alumni donation.

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION-URBAN PLANNING TRACK

The department's first cohort of Masters of Public Administration (MPA)-Urban Planning Track completed their classes and participated in graduation in August 2012 (list in the right-congratulations!!) We are recruiting for a cohort to begin in Fall 2013. If you or anyone you know are interested, please contact the department for more information.

Sarmen Antanesian	Melany Ellis	Noah Muhlstein	Joshua Rubenstein
Michelle Aragones	Carolyn Esmaelian Masihi	Cathy Nicles	Misak Sevlian
Diane Aranda	Juliana Gallardo	Godfrey Offoegbu	Edgar Solis
Lisa Bratton	Meri Grigoryan	Vahe Parsekhian	Carl Temple
Juan Carrillo	Kedem Har-Shalom	Boonrugsu Pinwattana	Marvin Virula
Thomas Chaffee	Francisco Jordan	Humberto Quintana	
Armen Dalyan	Michelle McCall	Charles Ramos	
Palig Demirjian	Robert Miller	Andres Rodriguez	

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Newsletter of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, CSBS, CSUN

LEARN MORE AT

http://www.csun.edu/csbs/departments/urban_studies_and_planning/index.html

The goal of our newsletter, **The URBS Post** is to maintain communication between our alumni, faculty, and current students.

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Department-of-Urban-Studies-and-Planning-CSUN/315811048432214>

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://www.csunalumni.com/default.aspx?page=GIVEUserGift>

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 question about this issue, 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 .