



THE URBS POST

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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.
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Charles Keynejad, M.A.
Carl Morehouse, M.P.A.
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Rawan Al-Jamal (student worker)

Urban Studies and Planning
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
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Northridge

FROM THE CHAIR



Greeting from CSUN. The 2012-13 academic year has been busy and productive here at CSUN and in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning. This year the Department anticipates about 40 of its students will receive their BA at graduation ceremonies in May. In addition, nearly 20 graduate students who are completing the MPA/Urban Planning Specialization degree are also anticipated to graduate then. This is the second cohort of students completing the Master of Public Administration-MPA/Urban Planning Specialization degree. The Department is currently recruiting for a third cohort of MPA/Urban Planning students to begin the program in Fall 2013. If you are interested, please give us a call.

KURT CHRISTIANSEN '85: URBAN STUDIES AND PLANNING ALUMNI HONORED AT THE 2012 CSUN VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

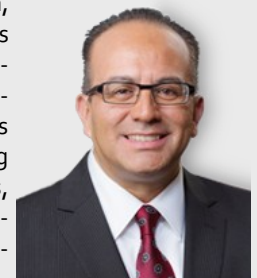
Kurt Christiansen was an honoree at the 2012 CSUN Volunteer Service Awards Ceremony. Kurt graduated from CSUN in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in Urban Studies and Planning and completed a Master's degree in Urban Planning from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1991. He is currently the Director of Economic and Community Development for the City of Azusa. He has volunteered his time with Junior Achievement, AIDS Walk Los Angeles, the Boy Scouts of America, and the American Planning Association. He is an Eagle Scout and has received the Boy Scouts of America's Order of the Arrow Distinguished Service Award.

Kurt has served on the Alumni Council for the Department of Urban Studies and Planning for over 10 years. As a member of the Alumni Council, Kurt has acted as a liaison between the Department and American Planning Association. His volunteer leadership roles with the American Planning Association include serving

as the Los Angeles Section Director, the California Chapter President, and his current position as Vice Chair of the National Chapter Presidents Council. One of his accomplishments during his term as Los Angeles Section Director was to establish a yearly scholarship to a CSUN student in the Urban Studies and Planning Department. His role with the National APA organization was instrumental in allowing CSUN students to become members and attend the conference at a reduced rate.

FROM URBS CLASSROOM TO STATE ASSEMBLY

Raul Bocanegra (D-Pacoima) was elected to the State Assembly in November 2012 to represent California's 39th Assembly District, which includes the communities of Pacoima, San Fernando, Arleta, Mission Hills, Sylmar, North Hollywood, Lake View Terrace, Los Angeles, Northeast Granada Hills, Sunland-Tujunga, and Sun Valley. He has been a part-time professor in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning teaching URBS 380: Los Angeles, past, present and future. CONGRATULATIONS, Raul!



Dr. Danta, we will miss you!



It is with considerable sadness that we report that Dr. Darrick Danta, Associate Dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and long-time faculty member of the Department of Geography passed away Friday February 15th, 2013. A long-time resident of the San Fernando Valley and an inveterate champion of the Geography Department at California State University, Northridge, Dr. Danta had spent a good deal of his life in the classrooms of Sierra Hall. Dr. Danta earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the Geography Department at CSUN. He later took a PhD in geography from Ohio State, before returning to CSUN to begin a long career teaching and researching. He served as president of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, as well as editor for their journal. Colleagues will remember Darrick as a good friend, a chronic punster, and a veritable encyclopedia of university rules, regulations and loopholes.

Taken from Department of Geography webpage

Department of Urban Studies and Planning wishes comfort for his family, friends and colleagues.

CAMPUS NEWS

CSUN's VA Resource Center

CSUN's new Veterans Resource Center has opened. The veteran support center, which was approved by the University Student Union Board of Directors and paid for by students' campus quality fee, provides additional resources and support for a growing segment of CSUN's student population. "It speaks highly to CSUN that this is a student-initiated program," said Montaigne Staats Long, coordinator for the Veterans Resource Center. "Students are funding it through fees, students are running the center, they're supporting and backing the center so it just really speaks to the need being fulfilled and students recognizing that." The opening of the VRC comes at a time when colleges and universities nationwide are increasing the resources available to veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. California is known to have the largest veteran

population in the country with two million overall and an estimated 30,000 returning from deployment annually, according to a California State Assembly Democratic Caucus. During the opening ceremony Debra L. Hammond, University Student Union executive director, said the ultimate goal is for the veterans to become successful students. "This is a tremendous resource for veterans as well as their independence," Hammond said.

Kevin Kidd, student veteran and Urban Studies and Planning major, was one of the catalysts for the idea of the center.



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Kenya Covington was awarded an external research grant from the Haynes Foundation for \$12,000. The project is entitled Neighborhood Stabilization in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area – the project aims to examine 61 local foreclosure abatement programs.

Robert Kent visited The School of Geographic Sciences at the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica in Heredia, Costa Rica for 10 days in November 2012 as a visiting professor and curriculum advisor.

Craig Olwert and Amy Turnbull, URBS student, attended the 27th

Annual Land Use Law and Planning Conference as Hagman Scholars on Jan 18, 2013.

Henrik Minassians, attended a one-day course taught by Edward Tufte on "presenting data and information", Los Angeles January 2013.

Zeynep Toker presented her research "Pedestrians' Streets: Assessment of Walkability Criteria on Santa Monica Boulevard in Los Angeles" at the American College Schools of Planning (ACSP)

Conference, Cincinnati, OH in October, 2012..

Ward Thomas presented his paper "Korean Dry Cleaners in Southern California" at the 2013 annual conference of the Pacific Sociological Association held March 20-24 in Reno, Nevada.

Mintesnot Woldeamanuel is named *World Social Science Fellow* by The International Social Science Council (ISSC) and he made presentation at a week long seminar on Sustainable Urbanization in Quito, Ecuador in March 2013.

INTERNSHIP PARTNERS— THE TRANSIT COALITION

The Transit Coalition is a dedicated grassroots organization that advocates a balance between many transportation modes in San Fernando Valley region. The interest of the coalition is in improving bus, subway, commuter rail, light rail, bike, airport access, goods movement, physically challenged access, and automobile transportation in Southern California.

For the last couple of years The Transit Coalition has been an important internship partner to our department. Students are enjoying

the experience they are acquiring and the CEO of the Coalition, Bart Reed too is happy with their work. "Overall, the students have been eager to learn and have shown fascination at the planning process in action. This willingness to contribute makes our work easier, as it keeps everyone on the same page knowing full well what our goals are and how to achieve them. The students also know how to transmit often technical information in a way that is understandable to the general

public." says Bart Reed. Students also have some nice things to say about the Transit Coalition. "The Transit Coalition has allowed me to network with top planning and transportation officials in Los Angeles" says Manuel Araujo, a senior. Liza Wright, who is minoring in Urban Studies and Planning says "being part of The Transit Coalition gives me real world experience within the transportation industry".

The Transit Coalition is playing a positive role in students career path. Jorge Martinez, a major in the department said "my experience at

the Transit Coalition helped me understand the transportation practices and helped me begin my career."



ALUMNI

Ryan Adams (2009) is an academic coordinator at the University of Idaho.

Corina Alarcon (2003) is an insurance broker. She is also a member of the Building and Safety Commission for the City of Los Angeles.

Jeffrey Allen (2008) is a land use planner with Planning Associates. He graduated from CSUN's MPA program in 2011.

Sevan Sean Baroni (2009) is a realtor. He is the founder and chairman of Glendale Association of Realtors (GATOR) and Young Professional Network (YPN).

Connie Bacelis (1992) is a retired academic advisor. She worked at CSUN.

Mieko Hirai Braun (1999) is executive director of LINC 21 in LA, a consulting firm which facilitates US/Japan business.

Josh Carsman (2000) runs Webmaster Services in Ventura CA. He does design, development, and optimization for web clients.

Arsen Dervishian (2011) is enrolled in the CSUN MPA/Urban Planning program.

Mark Edwards (1998) has opened his own political and urban affairs consulting firm in Los Angeles. He recently ran the primary campaign of Richard Bloom for Assembly.

Hugo Figueredo (2011) works for the Big West Conference and is working on his masters in sports management at the University of San Francisco.

Joseph Fiss, (1989) is a principal planner in Moorpark, CA.

Michael Frost (1990) is the deputy director of Public Works for Marin County, CA.

C. Lynn Goldsmith (1983) is a transportation planner with METRO. She is the manager of its bike program.

Charlotte Haskell (1979) is a nurse and recently completed her HIT Implementation Certificate. She lives in South Carolina.

Joseph Heredia (2000) is a permit specialist for the City of West Hollywood.

Myrna Jimenez (2009) is a systems designer for SunPower, a solar energy firm in Valencia, CA.

Amanda Lafond (2011) is a full-time planning assistant for the City of Malibu. She often works at the public counter.

Robert Miller (2010) is an office manager at Standard Process West Coast in Los Angeles

Janae Morris (2011) is a policy and community organizer for Fighting Back, a non-profit organization supporting neighborhoods, in Vallejo, CA.

Jason Naanos (2011) is an associate planner with the Majic Consulting Group in Santa Clarita. He will attend graduate school in Washington DC in fall 2013.

Opanyi K Nasiali (1974) is the mayor and a city council member for the City of Claremont, 2011-2015.

Caitlin Pohle (2012) is the administrative manager for CREW (Concerned Resource and Environmental Workers), a non-profit youth employment program in Ojai, CA.

Martin Potter (2009) is a planning technician for City of Burbank. He recently assisted with Burbank's General Plan update.

Gary W. Price (1980) is the principal for Price Consulting Services which specializes in land use planning and grants administration in Nevada City, CA.

Amelia Soto (2005) is a redevelopment project analyst. Currently she is working on two affordable housing projects that will be completed by the Carson Housing Authority.

Ondrea Tye (1986) is a planner in the City of Los Angeles. She is currently running two design review boards, San Vicente Blvd. and Colorado Blvd.

Joel Weise (1979) retired. He co-invented the Visa Card "chip".

URBS OFFICE CREW

Bennie Say (Administrative Coordinator); Mercedes Ortiz, Rawan Al-Jamal and David Canlas (student workers)



STUDENT NEWS

Jasmin Roque, Diana Benitez and Cody Starr, juniors in the department, were selected to be exchange students in Brazil in spring 2013. Jasmin and Diana are attending the Federal University of Goiás (UFG/BR) and **Cody Starr** is enrolled in the Federal University of Uberlândia (UFU/BR).

Amy Turnbull, URBS student, attended the 27th Annual Land Use Law and Planning Conference as a Hagman Scholars on Jan 18, 2013.

Chris Hicks and Sam Gutierrez participated in the California Transportation Foundation's annual Educational Symposium for students and professionals in transportation in early November 2012. They were nominated by the department and were guests of the foundation at the event.

URBS 450-Urban Problem Seminar students presented their research work on the 37th Annual CSU, Social Science Research and Instructional Council (SCRIC) Student Research Conference on May 3, 2012 at Cal State Los Angeles.

URBS 480-Urban Transportation Planning students attended "Complete Streets Conference" organized by UCLA on February 28, 2013. Their participation was made possible by many generous alumni donations to the department.

THANK YOU 😊

We are grateful to alumni and friends who donate to the department. We recently received donations from the following alumni and friends, and we would like to say **THANK YOU!**

- *Mieko Braun
- *Euripedes B. De Oliveira
- *Monica M. Haboush
- *James Harrison Ring
- *David Alan Hyman
- *Robert B. Kent
- *Ken Koslow
- *Lilyana Morejon
- *Hideaki and Kyoko Morishita
- *Jose Rangel
- *Joshua and Jenna Rubenstein
- *Larry Thompson
- *Tracy D. Williams

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THE URBS POST

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

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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://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 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 .