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Full Time Faculty

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

Part Time Faculty

Euripedes De Oliveira, M.A.
Scott Howard, J.D.
Charles Keynejad, M.A., AICP
Carl Morehouse, M.P.A., AICP
Kaizer Rangwala, M.A., AICP
Abhishek Tiwari, Ph.D.
Dev Vrat, M.A., AICP
David Weintraub, M.A.
Claude Willey, M.A.
Peter Wong, Ph.D.

Staff

Pat Ordonez (Administrative Coordinator)
Jessica Haro, Marlene Mancia and Karl Pascasio (student workers)

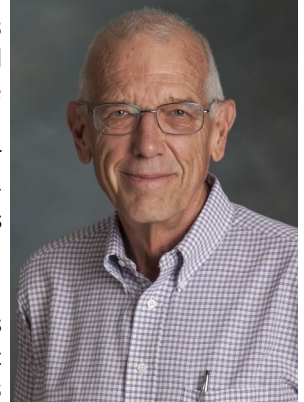
Urban Studies and
Planning

CSUN

FROM THE CHAIR

It is an exciting year at CSUN and in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning. The campus is bursting at the seams with a total fall enrollment of about 42,000 students, its highest number ever. We welcomed a new Provost, Dr. Yi Li. The department is also prospering. Alessandro Rigolon joined the faculty as an assistant professor and the department welcomed its first class cohort of nearly 20 graduate students to its Masters of Urban Planning degree program this fall.

We are also lucky to be in the midst of lots of innovative and forward looking planning that is taking place in Southern California. It makes for a stimulating and thought provoking professional and academic environment for students and faculty. For instance, the City of Los Angeles recently adopted an ambitious and controversial Transportation Plan and has also approved ground-breaking legislation to undertake a massive earthquake retrofit of hundreds of structurally unsafe buildings in the city. Simultaneously, planning is underway for the arrival of high-speed rail to the San Fernando Valley, stirring strong emotions and hotly contested visions of progress. Close to home, right in CSUN's neighborhood, the city has designated Reseda Blvd. as a "great street", improving its role as a neighborhood focus and point of pride. These are indeed exciting times for students and faculty at CSUN and in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning.



MEET THE NEW PROFESSOR



Dr. Alessandro Rigolon joined the department in Fall 2015 as an assistant professor. He received his Ph.D. from The University of Colorado Denver in 2015 in Design and Planning. His research interests focus on access to green infrastructure from an environmental justice perspective, with a specific emphasis on access to parks for young people. In his doctoral dissertation, he studied how park planning and land use planning have shaped the geographic distribution of parks across income and ethnic groups in Denver, Colorado. He was a part-time lecturer at the University of Colorado Boulder and at the University of Bologna, teaching courses in urban design, land use planning, GIS, research methods, and landscape architecture. He also worked as an urban designer and architect in several Italian firms from 2007 to 2011. He teaches courses on visual communication tools for planners and on urban sustainability. During his free time, he enjoys exploring the outdoors with his wife, Sofia, and their Boston Terrier puppy, Bruno.

GRADUATES

[Bachelor in Urban Studies and Planning]
(SPRING 2015)

Vicente Arellano
Jason Baltazar
Daisy Benicia
Jonathan Benjamin
Adulmohsen Binghamnam
Hatim Fatehi
Gregory Faulkner
Hamik Hartounian
Eduardo Hernandez
Belen Herrera
Jose Ibarra
Larry Jenkins
Maria Jimenez
Alejandro Jimenez
Kevin Khouri
Reva Lanyon
Omer Malik
Monte Marable
Marcos Mendez
Cassandra M. Pineda
Jeremy Montes
Stefanie Moran
Terri Osborne
David Oulrey
Joseph Provenzale
LaShondra Richardson
Jinmi Salazar
Joel Sugarman
Artin Yaghobian
Marisol Zamar
Michael Barajas (minor)

CAMPUS NEWS

CSUN Names Li New Provost

California State University, Northridge President Dianne F. Harrison announced the appointment of Dr. Yi Li as CSUN's provost and vice president for academic affairs beginning July 20, 2015. Li brings more than three decades of higher education leadership, including award-winning research, scholarship and a particular specialty in increasing gender and ethnic diversity of STEM programs.

Li comes to CSUN from Wright State University, where he served as dean of the College of Science and Mathematics since 2011. He previously served as professor and chair of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Iowa, associate professor of mathematics at the University of Rochester, and instructor at the University of Chicago. As provost, Li is

CSUN's chief academic officer. Former Provost Harry Hellenbrand, stepped down from the position at the end of the 2014-2015 academic year after 11 years in the role.



Source: <http://www.csun.edu/it/news/csun-names-li-new-provost>

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Kenya Covington was awarded the 2015-2016 Distinguished Teaching Award. Her record of teaching, research and leadership in the discipline established her as a competitive candidate. The Distinguished Teaching Award acknowledges her outstanding teaching record and dedication to student success!

Rob Kent has just published a book review of "My Los Angeles: From Urban Restructuring to Regional Urbanization" by Edward Soja in the *Geographical Review* 15(4):631-633. (2015).

Craig Olwert's paper "Stranding Cycling Transit Users on Los Angeles' Orange Line Bus Rapid Transit" is published on *Journal of Public Transportation*, 18, 1, 1-15 (2015). The paper

was co-authored with Jose Tchoporuan, Vicente Arellano and Mintesnot Woldeamanuel.

Henrik Minassians' paper "Network Governance and Performance measures: Challenges in Collaborative design of Hybridized Environments Published" is published on *International Review of Public Administration*, 2015.

Alessandro Rigolon presented a paper "Planning for Young people's Access to Urban Parks: An Environmental Justice Investigation in Denver" at ACSP conference, 2015.

Zeynep Toker presented a paper "The Power of Perception: The Perceived Quality of the Streets and reported Walking in Three Different Socioeco-

nom Status Neighborhoods" at EDRA 46th Environmental Design Research Association Conference, Los Angeles, CA (2015).

Ward Thomas' paper "Ethnic Mobilization Among Korean Dry-cleaners." is published on *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 38, (12), 2108-2122 (2015). It is co-authored with Paul Ong.

Mintesnot Woldeamanuel's paper "Are You Really Listening to Me? Planning with the Community in Urban Revitalization Projects" is published as a book chapter in *Untamed Urbanism*. Taylor & Francis, August 2015.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP: NORTHRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

Over the past two years, the Urban Studies and Planning Department has been working with several neighborhood councils [(Northridge South (NSNC), Northridge East, and Northridge West)], City Council District 12 (CD-12), and Northridge Sparkle to recommend improvements to upgrade CSUN's main street, Reseda Blvd. During the Fall of 2013, Dr. Toker's Community Based Urban Design course (URBS 440) did field work and developed a proposal to make Reseda Blvd. more walkable and bikeable. In Spring 2015, Dr. Olwert's Field Work class

(URBS 490C) worked with all three Northridge neighborhood councils and created a demographic report on Northridge and a design to improve the bikeability of the Northridge South area. Prof. Vrat's Urban Design course continued this good will effort and made re-design suggestions for the Northridge Metrolink station and Parthenia St. in Fall 2014. The latest effort occurred in Spring 2015, when Dr. Olwert's Field Work course re-designed the interchange at Reseda Blvd and Parthenia St. While these projects were interesting for the students, the activity of Northridge Sparkle (Don Larson and Andrea Alvarado), NSNC, and CD-12 has brought some of these project to fruition. Through the Great Street program, Reseda Blvd. was re-paved and re-stripped. Several block south of Nordhoff St. received

new street furniture and patterned sidewalk painting. A new Starbucks and Sharky's were opened with NSNC and CD-12 negotiating for outdoor seating, in accordance with good walkability principles. Planning does not always lead to projects, but with the partnership of Northridge Sparke, NSNC, CD-12 and the URBS students, positive changes are happening.



ALUMNI

Amani Austin (BA 2014) is a youth development coordinator for Juma Ventures in Oakland, CA, a non-profit that promotes college access for low-income high school students.

Laurie Van Wagenen (nee) Brightwell (BA 2008) is a building inspector-code enforcement for the City of Burbank, CA.

In Los Angeles, the Arroyo Seco Foundation's watershed coordinator is **Scott David Cher** (BA 2008).

The City of Malibu has just added **Carlos Contreras** (BA 2006,) to its planning staff as an associate planner.

Rebecca Correa (BA 2008) is a graduate student in landscape architecture at the University of California, Berkeley.

Max Franco (BA 2008) is the founder and executive director of Tiny Houses of LB (Long Beach), an organization which "fosters and nurtures tiny house enthusiasts."

Sam Gutierrez (BA 2012) completed a masters of urban planning (MUP) at San Jose State University in May 2015.

Carlos Hernandez (BA 2011) recently completed a masters in planning at UCLA and is now the bike share coordinator for the Public Works Department, Oakland, CA.

Robert Holt (BA 2014) is an assistant planner in his hometown of Madera, CA.

Larry Jenkins (BA 2014) is a community engagement educator for the Baltimore Energy Challenge Program in Baltimore, MD.

Vidal Marquez (BA 2010) is an assistant planner with the City of Covina, CA.

The Vice President for Real Estate and Asset Management at the East Los Angeles Community Corporation is **Alejandro Martinez** (BA 1998).

Sarah Ekeberg (nee) McGurk (MPA-URBS 2013) is Permit Planner with the County of Ventura, CA.

Melodi McGee (BA 2014) now lives in Toledo, Oregon, where she works for the City of Toledo as Assistant City Recorder.

Shahram "Rami" Nadershahi (BA 1981) is regional manager of operations in the western United States for the multinational corporation, Schneider Electric.

Ira Needleman (BA 1973) is an educational program specialist with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Los Angeles, CA.

David Oulrey (BA 2015) is the Neighborhood Preservation Officer for the City of Lomita, CA.

Humberto Quintana (BA 2010) has recently accepted a position as an associate planner with the City of San Fernando, CA.

After completing a masters of architecture in 2014, **Ralph Sansano** (BA 2010) accepted a position as a project coordinator for LPA in its offices in San Jose, CA.

MASTERS OF URBAN PLANNING (MUP), UP AND RUNNING

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning started its first masters program in Fall 2015. The Masters 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 masters 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.

Application Deadline for Fall 2016

March 15, 2016

STUDENT NEWS

Ashley Mercado and Nour Chabaan were the recipients of the James H. Ring Scholarship for 2014/15. Each student received scholarship awards of \$1,000 in recognition of their academic achievements. This scholarship is named for its founder, James H. Ring, an alumni of the department (1972).

Nour Chabaan, a junior in the department, also received a scholarship of \$1,000 from the California Planning Foundation.

Urban Planning Students Association elected new officers in Spring 2014

President: Nour Chabaan

Vice President: Marlene Mancia

Secretary: Sidra Gardezi

Treasurer: Jennifer Sanchez

Social Media: Jonathan Caballeros

Events Coordinator: Adriana Aguilar

Neighborhood Council Liaison: Amy Nguyen

APA Student Representative: Ashley Mercado and Daniel Lopez

David Oulrey was the recipient of Leadership and Commitment Award in Spring 2015. This award is given to the student major who has demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment in their activities during their CSUN career.

MPA URBAN PLANNING TRACK GRADUATES, 2014/2015 ACADEMIC YEAR

Jessica Barragan

Yahel Lopez

Nelli Derderian

Isaiah Ford

Steve Garcia

Jennifer Gasca

Andrew Gorden

Christopher O Holman

Pitchaya Jaroenta-vornpoka

Christopher Kim

Amanda Chiancola (Lafond)

Brenda Magana

George Martinez

Lisa McCullough

Cathy Nicles

Amal Shahin

Sosseh Taimoorian

Diana Yedoyan

Gurgen Yesayan



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THE URBS POST

Newsletter of the Department of Urban Studies and Planning
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

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Urban Studies and Planning
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**** CSUN Shines in Los Angeles****

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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 and accomplishments 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 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) 677-7116 or 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.