

THE *URBS* POST

NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF URBAN STUDIES AND PLANNING,
AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE



FALL 2018 ISSUE

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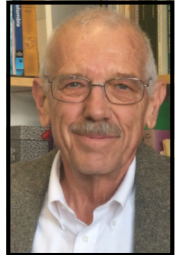
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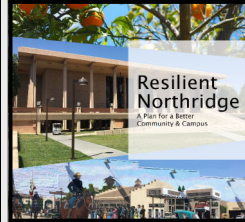
CALIFORNIA
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CHAIR'S MESSAGE: SCHOLARSHIPS MATTER

Scholarships recognize outstanding students who excel in their studies and pay immediate dividends when students use scholarship dollars to pay tuition and other essential expenses. Scholarships also pay long-term dividends as potential employers recognize these achievements as evidence of an applicant's hard work and high academic performance. Each year, the Department uses alumni donations to help students attend professional conferences, participate in workshops, and engage professionally in other ways. This year, Department faculty established a special scholarship utilizing funds donated by our alumni – the **Urban Studies and Planning Alumni Scholarship**. This scholarship recognizes a major in urban studies and planning who has demonstrated meaningful service to one or more of the following: fellow students, campus-based student organizations related to planning, the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, the CSUN campus community, and/or the Northridge community at-large. Last spring, senior Ashley Gomez became the first recipient of the **Alumni Scholarship**. The Department plans to continue to offer this scholarship each spring, but we need your help to do so. This year, please consider donating to support this scholarship for future deserving students.



MASTERS' PROJECT: RESILIENT NORTHRIDGE



The Masters of Urban Planning 2018 class developed the Resilient Northridge Plan over the 2017-18 academic year. This plan was designed to increase climate resilience for both Northridge and CSUN. With the funding and direction provided by the Second Nature and CRUX grants, the students engaged the local community and the campus to help determine important issues and develop strategies to address them. Through research and interviews, the items were vetted for feasibility. Many people, both on and off-campus, helped make this planning effort a success. On-campus, the Institute for Sustainability, the Facilities Planning, Design and Construction Department, the Career Center, and multiple faculty members provided insight and support while developing the plan. Off-campus, Northridge Vision, Council District 12, and the Northridge Beautification Foundation provided significant insight and support. The plan was presented to the Northridge Vision members during the July meeting and they were very pleased with the project. The plan was also presented at the City of Los Angeles Mayor's Office Workshop on Campus Resilience, and to CSUN during the Institute for Sustainability's Green Bag Lunch Series.

REMEMBERING JAMES H. RING (10/8/1947–7/29/2018)



The Department of Urban Studies and Planning lost a dear friend and benefactor this summer. James H. Ring graduated from CSUN in 1972 with a B.A. in Urban Studies, before following in his father's footsteps to become one of Los Angeles' premier real estate developers. He established both the James H. Ring Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarship awards, designed to recognize students with an outstanding academic record and provide financial support to help them complete their studies. Ring also provided substantial support to the Department, funding the newly-renovated computer lab in Sierra Hall, as well as an endowed professorship. Ring had said he received a quality education while he was at CSUN, and to show his gratitude he wanted to give back. He also stated he saw a rising standard across the whole university, and one of his life's passions was his desire to lift up the department that he helped shape. "You just want to reach out and help," Ring said. "Years go on and I get older and I just want to do more. I want to put the Department of Urban Studies on the map."

CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT— PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS AROUND CSUN



*Proposed apartments on Reseda Ave., via
LA Department of City Planning*

As CSUN grows, so does the surrounding neighborhood and the need for additional housing and lodging. To this end, several new developments are in the works on and around the CSUN campus. In addition to two large apartment buildings from private developers, the University itself intends to bring a sizable hotel to campus. Here are some details about the planned developments:

Nordhoff St. & Darby Ave.: Developer Nordhoff Darby, LLC intends to raze a vacant single-family home and a small commercial building to allow the construction of a five-story building at the northwest corner of Nordhoff and Darby Streets. Details: Mixed-use, five stories, 146 apartments, 2,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space, a fitness center, and a 222-car garage.

Reseda Blvd. & Plummer St.: The proposal calls for demolishing the existing post office and surface parking lot. Development is expected to necessitate several discretionary actions, including zone change and height district change. Details: Four stories. 128 units, street level retail space, 240 car garage (157 bicycles), with open space and outdoor amenities.

CSUN hotel: Planned for the corner of Nordhoff St and Matador Road, where the Orange Grove Bistro now stands, the hotel would provide lodging for visiting students, parents, and alumni, as well as host academic symposiums and business conferences. Details: Six stories, 150 guest rooms, restaurant, and additional campus space.



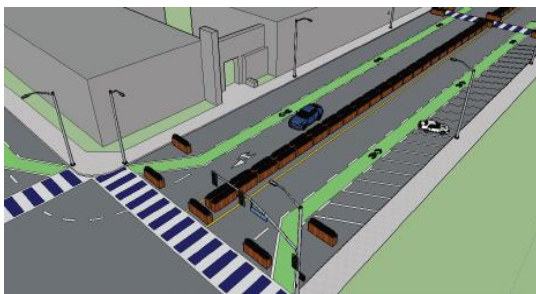
*Mixed-use apartments at Nordhoff St. and
Darby Ave., by DE Architects*

RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

- Carter, T., Pasinella, B., **Olwert, C.**, and Reichman, A. (2017). Connecting cities and campuses through climate leadership initiatives. *Sustainability*, 10(5): 293-299.
- Lopez, D. A., and **Minassians, H.** (2018). The Sexual Trafficking of Juveniles: A Theoretical Model. *Victims & Offenders*, 13(2): 257-276.
- Minassians, H. P.**, and Roy, R. K. (2018). Governance Structures and the “(De) Politicization” of Performance Measures. In *Outcome-Based Performance Management in the Public Sector* (pp. 107-120). Springer, Cham.
- Rigolon, A., **Toker, Z.**, and Gasparian, N. (2018). Who has more walkable routes to parks? An environmental justice study of Safe Routes to Parks in neighborhoods of Los Angeles. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 40(4):576-591.
- Toker, Z.**, and **Minassians, H.** (2018). “Miscalculated opposition of businesses to street improvements” *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers – Urban Design and Planning*. 171 (2): 55–60.
- Woldeamanuel, M.**, and Nguyen, D. (2018). Perceived benefits and concerns of autonomous vehicles: An exploratory study of millennials’ sentiments of an emerging market. *Research in Transportation Economics*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.retrec.2018.06.006>.

COMMUNITY PARTNER: WALKABLE PORTER RANCH

Last fall, students from the URBS 440 Community Based Urban Design course, under the supervision of Dr. Zeynep Toker, completed a site analysis for assessing the current pedestrian and bicycle friendliness of the streets around the Porter Ranch Community School (PRCS). The students’ assessment included conducting a cognitive mapping exercise with PRCS



Proposed design changes to Mason Ave.

middle school students and distributing questionnaires to nearby pedestrians, with the goal of preparing design guidelines and design proposals to improve mobility in the area. The recently-developed area was planned with a car-centric focus, without consideration for walkability or bikeability, leaving students from PRCS vulnerable under current traffic conditions. Proposed solutions to the issues found on Mason Avenue, leading up to Sesnon Boulevard, included implementing a pick-up/drop-off lane for PRCS students, creating enhanced crosswalks with increased visibility through continental markings, adding mid-block crosswalks on Mason Avenue and Sesnon Boulevard, and extending the median through moveable planters and paint near the school.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Brenda Amboy ('17) is an AmeriCorps VISTA Fellow in the office of the mayor in Stockton, CA.

Adams Bernhardt ('12) is an associate project planner for CBRE in Portland, OR.

Analisa Campos ('14) is completing her Master of Science degree in environmental science at San Jose State University.

Stanley Cohen ('13) is a chef and the owner of "Catering by Stanley" in Las Vegas, NV.

Cherokee Cooper (BA '12, MPA '14) is a technical writer for Molina Healthcare.

Shelby Cramton (MUP '17) is an assistant environmental planner at the environmental consulting firm, LSA.

Andres DiZitti ('10) is a Transportation Manager for METRO.

Jane Farkas ('03) is a senior project manager at Sespe Consulting in Ventura, CA. She is also a member of the City of Ventura Planning Commission.

Kristopher Fortin ('11) is a freelance journalist. He has worked on a range of local projects related to planning and mobility.

Jonathan Fox ('17) is an office assistant for the San Mateo County Registration and Elections Division.

Benjamin Gibson ('10) is a graduate research assistant in the Department of Psychology at the University of New Mexico where he is pursuing a Ph.D.

C. Lynne Goldsmith ('83) is retired in Sacramento, CA. She now works as a volunteer with local non-profits advocating for affordable housing, active transportation, and environmental justice.

Luca Guastaferrò ('14) recently interned with the Valley Industry and Commerce Association and State Assembly District 39 in the San Fernando Valley.

Jose Daniel Jimenez ('02) is a city planner with the City of Commerce. He has been a planner for 15 years and worked previously in the planning departments of the cities of Sierra Madre and Pasadena.

Myrna Jimenez-Parra ('09) is a designer at Southern California Edison. She recently celebrated two years of marriage on holiday in Europe.

Andrew Kent ('14) is a transportation planning/GIS analyst for the Ventura County Transportation Commission.

Stephen Kline ('79) is retired and lives in Seattle, WA.

Silvia Luna ('09) is an associate attorney with the Bloom Firm in Woodland Hills.

Melodi McGee ('14) is an assistant project manager for Bogatay Construction in Klamath Falls, OR. She also manages the company's senior and disabled subsidized/affordable housing project.

Dang Nguyen (MUP '17) is a project planner with the City of Los Angeles.

Dominick Ortiz ('17) is a graduate student in the master of urban planning program at UCLA.

Coral O'Riley ('13) is the manager of *La Troka*, a mobile garden and culinary program run by LA Plaza de Cultura y Artes in Los Angeles.

Hakeem Parke-Davis ('13) is a project planner with the City of Los Angeles.

Christina Parra ('03) is the emergency preparedness coordinator for the Culver City Fire Department.

Nicholas Piro ('08) is a social work case manager for Peninsula Healthcare Connection.

Enrique Rubalcava ('14) recently completed his degree in architecture from USC and is now a project engineer for Matt Construction in Ventura, CA.

Andrew Somers ('16) is a client services clerk for Motion Picture Compliance Solutions.

Morgan Spadone (Minor '17) is a drone pilot for Next Gen Aerials in Los Angeles.

Patricia Steur (BA '03, MPA '05) is the owner and manager of Steur Salon and Supply in Montrose, CA.

Jose Tchoupourian ('13) is a transportation planner with AECOM. An avid bicyclist, he is a certified instructor for the League of American Bicyclists and recently completed a 2,850 mile bicycle trip through the Southwest USA.

Matthew Valdez ('07) is legal counsel to the San Francisco Giants.

Josh Van Gundy (BA '11, MPA '13) is employed by U.S. Customs in Sacramento, CA.

DeJanea Williams ('14) is a transportation-engineering aide for the City of Los Angeles.

Tammy Williams-Anderson ('11) completed an advanced certificate in GIS at CSU Fresno and is now an Associate Planner for the City of Ridgecrest

MASTERS OF URBAN PLANNING



The 2018 MUP Graduating Class

The Department of Urban Studies and Planning graduated its second cohort of the Masters of Urban Planning (MUP) program in May, 2018; its third cohort of students began in the Fall of 2018.

The Master of Urban Planning program is now accepting applications for the Fall 2019 cycle! **The application deadline is Friday, May 31, 2019.**

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

It's been another great year for scholarships in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning, with nine of our students taking home a total of eleven awards! In addition to the James Ring Graduate and Undergraduate Scholarships, the Department has added the Urban Studies and Planning Alumni Scholarship, made possible by generous donations from our alumni. Please join us in congratulating this year's scholarship winners:

James Ring Graduate Scholarship: Tracy Chu, Philip Neumann, and Molivann Phlong

James Ring Undergraduate Scholarship: Carly Hollas, Shannon Kitover, Jacklyn Rack-erby, and Michelle Rivera

CSUN Urban Studies and Planning Alumni Scholarship: Cali Piccirillo

California Association of Professional Employees (CAPE) Scholarship: Cali Piccirillo

Northridge Beautification Foundation Scholarship: Ashley Gomez

APA California, Los Angeles Section Scholarship: Carly Hollas

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to our generous donors:

LINC 21 Inc.

Julie Newman ('96)

Northridge Beautification Foundation

Hakeem Parke-Davis ('13)

James H. Ring ('72)

Peter Thomas ('85)

Their donations help support students' participation in professional activities like workshops, conferences, field trips and site visits.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Dang Quoc Nguyen ('17) — Planning Assistant, Los Angeles Department of City Planning

Dang Nguyen works for the Los Angeles Department of City Planning as a Project Planner, overseeing developments within the northeast San Fernando Valley. Born and raised in the Valley, Dang feels pride at being able to earn his place as a civil servant with the City of LA. One of Dang's most treasured experiences was being part of CSUN's very first Master's cohorts in Urban Planning. Dang credits the rigorous program to his success, as it built the foundation he needed to become a city planner by honing his skills in critical thinking, fostering his written and verbal communication, and developing abstract urban planning theories into praxis on the streets of Los Angeles. His favorite courses included Planning Law, Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis, and Public Policy. Although it's been over a year since he graduated, Dang is grateful to be able to keep in touch with his professors, members of the cohort, and the local community.



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FIELD WORK, INTERNSHIPS, AND APPLIED PLANNING

In a Diverse, Dynamic Urban Region



Explore, Learn, and Practice
In a World Class City

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<https://goo.gl/wPDBL>

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We love correspondence from our alumni!

Please keep in touch with us. We would like to learn about the exciting events and accomplishments in your life. Please consider keeping us updated on any changes of home or e-mail address, so we can stay in touch.

Internships

We are always looking to expand 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 gift is too small. Your support provides both financial support and encouragement to students. Information on ways to give can be found at: <https://givenow.csun.edu/> or by calling Dr. Rob Kent at 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 Chair of the Department **Dr. Rob Kent** at rkent@csun.edu; phone: 818-677-4372.