



THE URBS POST

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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.

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Carl Morehouse, M.P.A., AICP
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Ian Donaldson (Administrative Assistant)
Jessica Haro and Daniela Perez (student workers)

Urban Studies and
Planning

CSUN

JAMES H. RING '72

HONORED AS CSUN DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



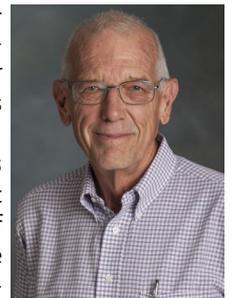
James H. Ring was honored at CSUN's Distinguished Alumni Award event, one of the university's highest honors. Ring graduated from CSUN in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in Urban Studies and Planning. He has been one of the most successful urban developers in the greater Los Angeles area and a hero to many — including CSUN and the Department of Urban Studies and Planning.

Ring remarked "My love of this university is tremendous, I must tell you, it gives me great pride to reach out and help my fellow students. I guess I feel like I'm always a student." He brought tears to many eyes with his inspiring speech and determination. Ring, who created the *James H. Ring Urban Studies Scholarship* through a generous gift and the *James H. Ring Professorship in Urban Studies and Planning*, announced at the event that he also would create a scholarship for graduate students.

CSUN's Distinguished Alumni Award is a celebration of achievement and recognition of Matadors who have brought honor to the university through their work, service, and dedication.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

It always goes fast! Suddenly the end of the academic year is upon us. The department faculty wrap-up the final details of their courses offerings, while students hurry to finish up pending assignments, research projects, and prepare for final exams. Commencement follows shortly thereafter, and then the graduates are off into the challenges and rewards of jobs and hopefully life-long careers. Department faculty have long believed that pursuing a career in urban studies and planning is rewarding, but a recent study by economics faculty members at CSUN has demonstrated this in a big way. Their study tracked the earnings of CSUN students residing in California by major over 20 years. The details are posted on the website of the university's Institutional Research Department under the heading "Alumni Earnings," <http://goo.gl/nIUUHt>. The specific data for Urban Studies and Planning shows that five years after graduation, the average salary for department graduates (BA) is approximately \$62,000 (among the highest in the university)! So aside from making the world a better place, graduates from Urban Studies and Planning also have an excellent shot at making a very good living. It is great news, check it out: <http://goo.gl/iW7kFS>



CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT

CSUN's Institute for Sustainability

Founded in 2009, CSUN's Institute for Sustainability promotes, facilitates, and develops educational, research, and university and community programs related to sustainability. The Institute serves as an umbrella organization across all the colleges of the university on issues related to sustainability and is committed to serving the campus community by increasing interdisciplinary and cross-functional communication, and supporting and aiding in the development and application of sustainability practices within the university and community. Consistent with the mission and vision of the university, the purposes of the Institute support curriculum development and curriculum innovation related to sustainability and the educational and professional growth and development of faculty, students, staff, and the community in the field of sustainability. The Institute also supports the pursuit of scholarly projects, creative activities, and research in the field of sustainability. The director of the Institute, Dr. Helen Cox, says "The role of the CSUN Institute for Sustainability is to lead university planning in sustainability for the campus, to coordinate and aid in the application of best practices in university operations, and to further education and research related to sustainability."

The Institute works with the faculty to seek and obtain funding from private and public agencies in support of sustainability-related projects. The institute supports and aids in university planning in sustainability including the collection, analysis, and reporting of data related to sustainability including resource use, energy use, carbon emissions, and waste. Dr. Cox added: "Faculty and students play a vital role in supporting the work of the Institute through data collection, analysis and research, such as our Commuting Reports, Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Climate Action Plan and in driving curriculum in sustainability."

The Institute assists the campus in reporting and liaison activities associated with the university's pledge through Second Nature (formerly American College and University Presidents' Commitment on Climate Change - ACUPCC). Dr. Cox concluded by saying: "CSUN has become one of the leading sustainability institutions, not just within the CSU but across the country because of its work in engaging both facilities and academics in addressing sustainability-related issues."



Dr. Helen Cox, Director, CSUN Institute for Sustainability

OUR SUPPORTERS

Contributions made to the department are used to assist our students to participate in a range of professional and academic activities for which funding is not otherwise (e.g., workshops, symposia, field trips, and attending planning association meetings like APA, ASEP, etc.). This semester, for example, six students attended the 2016 American Planning Association conference held in Phoenix, Arizona. Many thanks to the donors whose thoughtful gifts help fund our students' education beyond the classroom.

Charles Albanese '82; Bruce Chow '91; Daniel Garcia '11; Monica Haboush '86; David Hyman '80; James Ring '72; Joshua Rubenstein '12; Peter Thomas '85; Larry Thompson '73; Sonja Tristan '12; and William Watkins '74

We also are thankful to our alumni who helped with "Mock Interviews" this spring (22 April), serving on interview panels for students in our internship classes.

Andres Di Zitti '10; Edgar Solis '10; Humberto Quintana '10; Carlos Contreras '06; Christopher Smith '93; Cynthia Campana '15; Jose Jimenez '02; Daniel Skolnick '07; and Jennifer Gasca '15.

Thank You

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP: PACOIMA BEAUTIFUL

One of our vital community partners is Pacoima Beautiful, an environmental justice organization in the Northeast San Fernando Valley. Started in 1996 by five mothers who wanted to improve Pacoima through beautification projects, it involved tree-plantings and community clean-ups. Soon after, the organization's programs were extended to helping residents identify toxic sources of pollution and creating solutions to reduce health risks. Currently, the organization is working on keeping community members of all ages engaged in the environmental justice movement through three community organizing initiatives: Clean Up Green

Up (CUGU), Complete Streets, and the Pacoima Wash Vision Plan.

A recent partnership between Pacoima Beautiful and the department occurred in fall 2015, when students from Professor Zeynep Toker's fieldwork class designed a project that responded to problems in the San Fernando area. This collaborative effort produced a set of design guidelines that addressed pedestrian and cyclist constraints in order to enhance the mobility of Vineland Avenue — Sunland Boulevard. This arterial street includes an array of commercial activity, access to residential land use, businesses/offices, a park, and it intersects with Golden State 5 Freeway. Its characteristics present problems in the form of cleanliness, safety, and traffic, all of which compromise pedestrian/bicyclist

circulation. To business owners, these problems threaten the economic vitality of the area while discouraging walking and biking. To residents, these problems affect the community's overall well-being. The project recommended improvements to the design of the street to improve pedestrian and cyclist movement and safety, cleanliness, and traffic congestion.



Pacoima
Beautiful

ALUMNI

Summer Aburashed ('13) is the lead administrative support specialist at Morris & Garriteno Insurance Agency in San Luis Obispo, CA.

Manuel Araujo ('11) is a property manager for Milan Capital Management in Anaheim, CA.

Chris Brown ('05) is director of environmental services for Southern California for the consulting firm MIG in Riverside, CA.

The City of Santa Clarita, CA recently hired **Cynthia Campana** ('15) as an assistant planner. Previously, she was employed as a planning technician by the city.

David de la Cruz ('14) is a second year student in the masters of landscape architecture program at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA.

F. Andres Di Zitti ('10) is transportation planner II with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (LACMTA).

Stephen Friday ('03) is the European Valuations Manager for Prologis in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Alex Fuchs, ('11) is the parking services supervisor for the City of San Luis Obispo, CA.

Daniel Garcia ('11) is a parking analyst for Walker Parking Consultants in Los Angeles, CA. He recently traveled to the firm's Abu Dhabi office to work on the parking plan for the Saudi Arabian city of Riyadh.

At Rio Honda College in Whittier, CA, **Jorge Huinquez** ('91) is an assistant professor and the coordinator of the Puente Project.

In Baltimore, MD, **Larry Jenkins** ('15), is a community engagement educator for the Baltimore Energy Challenge.

Alejandro Jimenez ('15) is a case manager with the New Beginnings Counseling Center and the City Housing Authority in Santa Barbara, CA.

John Moreno ('93) works at GPA Consulting in Pasadena, CA, where he is an associate environmental planner.

Evelyn Rabuchin ('75) taught for many years with the Los Angeles Unified School District. She is now retired.

Enrique Rubalcava ('14) is enrolled in the masters in architecture program at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, CA.

Nancy Shahverdi (nee Tahvili) ('02) lives in Great Neck, New York where she is a "stay at home mom".

The Architectural Resources Group in Pasadena, CA specializes in historic preservation. **Christopher James Smith** ('93) is the office director and a partner/principal with the firm.

Pat Steur ('03) is co-owner and manager of Salon Sheets & Boutique in Montrose, CA.

William Watkins ('74) is the Vice President for Student Services at California State University, Northridge (CSUN).

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.

STUDENT NEWS

APA Phoenix

by Jasmine Alvarado

Six students from the department (including myself) attended the 2016 American Planning Association conference held in the beautiful city of Phoenix, Arizona. After driving for six and a half hours from Northridge, we were definitely excited to start our experience. We had the opportunity to listen to a variety of speakers such as private sector professionals, public sector planners, and students. The discussions covered a variety of topics ranging from best planning practices, sustainability, urban design, mixed-used development, and planning for multimodal transportation. One of the most memorable discussions was the "Recent Planning Grads in the Working World," where both private and public sector planners answered questions about career development paths for emerging professionals. The conference also had a Tech Zone where several companies displayed rising technologies used in the planning field. The most interesting was the ESRI booth where they displayed their next-generation virtual reality technology that put individuals in computer-created cities. The APA conference was a great opportunity for networking with planners and students from various locations around the nation. The conference was a memorable experience, and I will definitely take the ideas learned into my future career.

APA IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

The Los Angeles Section of the American Planning Association is hosting the 2016 California Planning Conference in Pasadena on October 22-25, 2016. The goal of the conference is to highlight the great place-making that is happening in the Los Angeles region. The conference is appealing to a diverse planning audience including students, emerging professionals, allied and other creative professionals, academics, citizen-planners, mid-career professionals, and elected officials.



WELCOMING IAN DONALDSON



Ian Donaldson joined the Department of Urban Studies and Planning in spring 2016 as an Administrative Assistant. Prior to joining the department, Ian was working in a non-profit organization that deals with professional development for child care professionals. Ian has a BA in social science from Portland State University. He enjoys music and film in his free time. WELCOME Ian!



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

LEARN MORE AT

<http://www.csun.edu/urbanstudies>

Urban Studies and Planning
@California State University, Northridge
Field work, Internships, and Applied Planning in a
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**** CSUN Shines in Los Angeles****

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<https://goo.gl/wPDBLH>



@CSUN_URBS

The goal of our newsletter, **The URBS Post** is to maintain communication between our alumni, faculty, friends, supporters, community members 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. Your gift 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 questions, or suggestions please 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.