

The Cornell Planner

department of city and regional planning

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OCP Elects New Leadership

November is election month everywhere, and the Department of City and Regional Planning is no exception! The Organization of Cornell Planners (OCP), the student government body representing the graduate students of the department, recently elected its new board. OCP was founded by students in the 1950s, recognizing a need for student-organized professional development and social functions. Today, the group continues to fulfill its foundational goals, regularly co-hosting official events, such as the Open House in the spring and Orientation in the fall, and sponsoring the department's Town Hall forum, mixers, and faculty-student socials.



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GPSA Rep.



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"We look forward to engaging the student body in setting the 2012 OCP agenda around four core principles," said President-elect Haden Springer (M.R.P. '12). "Namely, these are supporting student-led efforts to expand the academic offerings of the department, strengthening linkages between diverse student organizations within and outside CRP, maintaining open communication channels between students and faculty, and continuing the good work of OCP leaders and active members in bringing new professional and social opportunities to CRP."

Congrats to the incoming leaders and best of luck to them over the next year!

OURS is currently electing new undergraduate leaders. Check the *Planner* for those results next semester!

CRP Workshops Wrap Up a Semester of Service

This past fall, five workshops connected CRP students to communities from nearby Spencer all the way to Southern Mexico. Here is a quick recap of what each group was up to.

New York City

Professor Robert Balder led a group of MRP students in serving four clients throughout New York City. The students traveled to the Big Apple every other weekend to work with four clients: the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYCDOHMH), the New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC), the Regional Plan Association (RPA), and Transportation Alternatives, a transit and bicycle advocacy group.



Students walk bikes through Times Square

Two teams of students worked with NYCDOHMH to encourage healthy eating in high-risk, low-income neighborhoods. A team working with NYCEDC team contributed to a vision to revitalize the Springfield Gardens neighborhood in Queens by strengthening connections with the New York City air cargo industry. The RPA group is producing a report on climate change mitigation and adaptation for coastal parts of Queens, while the group working with Transportation Alternatives focused on advocacy for bicycle infrastructure.

"It's been incredibly exciting and rewarding to contribute to initiatives that could have a real and lasting impact," said Gregory Kelly (M.R.P. '12). "And Bob Balder has done a fantastic job exposing us to the current development agenda for NYC and making sure that we all walked away from this course with the competency to apply lessons from the classroom to real planning challenges"

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Faculty Updates:

Jeff Chusid's book, *Saving Wright: The Freeman House and the Preservation of Meaning, Materials, and Modernity*, was published.

Nancy Brooks' and Kieran Donaghy's book, *The Oxford Handbook of Urban Economics and Planning*, co-edited with Gerrit-Jan Knaap, was published.

Upcoming Events:

CRP Holiday Party
Tuesday, December 6, 12:00pm-3:00pm
B-10 W. Sibley

Jessica Millman: "LEED for Neighborhood Development"
Tuesday, December 6, 10:30am
115 W. Sibley

Viktor Chuyuan Zhong and Mildred Warner:
"High-Speed Rail Corridors: What can California Learn from Spain?" *Regional Science Lecture*
Wednesday, November 7, 4:30pm-6:30pm
115 W. Sibley

Money Blog

by Luiz Martinez

CRP Blog

by Ann Forsyth and Bonnie O'Neill

URS Facebook Page

URS is now on Facebook!

Chiapas

The Chiapas workshop, led by Professor Marcela González Rivas, generated a report to the Mexican Federal government regarding a project known as Sustainable Rural Cities. Several students traveled to the sparse and surreal town of Santiago el Pinar, built from the ground up by the Mexican government in an effort attract residents from nearby overcrowded villages. The traveling group spent a week collecting data on the efficacy of the initiative. Students from the workshop presented a poster on the occasion of the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies' 50th anniversary. Two of the students will travel back to Chiapas over winter break to present the completed report to Mexican authorities.



Spencer community forum

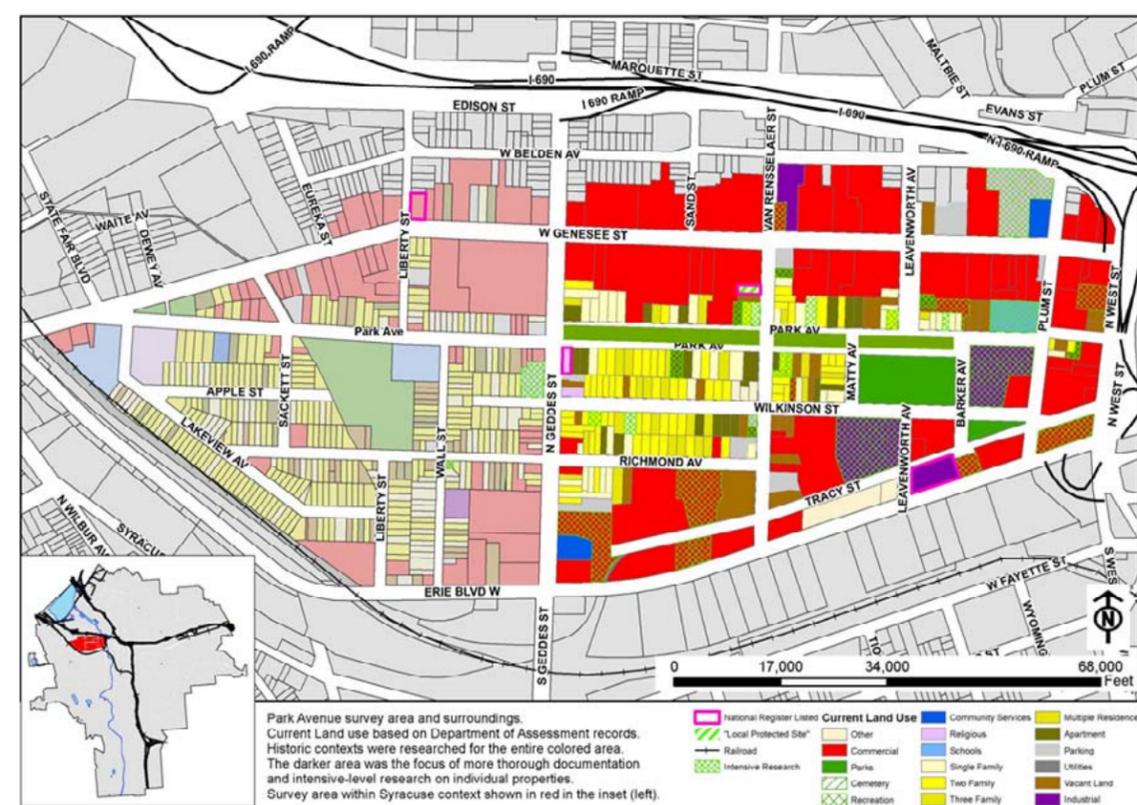
Spencer

Another workshop focused on the nearby town of Spencer, NY. Professor George Frantz's students have been responsible for developing a new joint comprehensive plan for the Town of Spencer and Village of Spencer. The students completed site analyses, conducted an internet and phone survey to measure attitudes and preferences of local residents, and hosted a community forum in their research phase. Their final plan includes a list of goals, objectives and recommendations on future zoning for the Town and Village, mitigating flood hazards in the wake of the Tropical Storm Lee flooding in September, and protecting the community from impacts of the imminent arrival of natural gas drilling.

Buffalo

The ReDesign workshop, led by Professor Jeffrey Chusid, was a collaborative effort with architecture students from the University at Buffalo, intended to introduce preservationists, planners and architects to each other's ways of thinking and acting when confronted by a shared design challenge: a block of downtown Buffalo. The CRP students developed elements of a downtown comprehensive planning document, and critiqued the architectural designs produced in the University at Buffalo studio. Early in the semester, the two classes from CRP joined the Buffalo students for an all-day tour of Buffalo's historic sites, while

the Buffalo students came to Ithaca for a tour of recent projects that placed pieces of contemporary design in historic contexts, including Milstein Hall, the Physical Sciences Building, and the Johnson Museum addition.



Publication map from the Syracuse Workshop

Syracuse

This fall, the HPP Survey workshop was co-taught by visiting faculty member Katelyn Wright and Professor Jeffrey Chusid. An annual effort, this year's workshop focused on the eclectic Park Avenue neighborhood of Syracuse, which includes a fascinating mix of residential, institutional and industrial architecture, as well as part of the former Erie Canal right-of-way. The survey process is central to preservation planning at local, state and national levels, and, this year, six members of the Survey and Documentation division of the State Historic Preservation Office joined Syracuse city staff as clients and interested parties, working with the students to develop a normative process that can be promulgated statewide. The results of the workshop, which included historical thematic context statements, documentation of over 700 properties, maps, and intensive-level surveys of 36 significant sites, were published in a booklet distributed to the public at a presentation made by the students in Syracuse.

Regional Scientists Represent CRP in Miami

Attendees of the 58th Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International (NARSC) were treated to sunny weather and good company on their trip to Miami, November 9th-12th. Along with over 500 participants from around the world, six regional science Ph.D. students from Cornell exchanged knowledge and discussed their current research at almost 200 conference sessions. Participants received constructive feedback and comments on their work, and explored exciting new research in topics ranging from urban and rural development to GeoComputation.

Together, Professor Yuri Mansury and two Ph.D. students, Sutee Anantsuksomsri and Nij Tontisirin, presented two papers: "The Distributional Impact of University-Led Revitalization on the Neighborhood Economy: A Computable General Equilibrium Model of a Small Urban Area" and "Game Theory in Space: An Agent-Based Modeling and Geographic Information System Approach". Anantsuksomsri and Tontisirin also presented their paper, "An Analysis of New Public Transit on Household Commuting Patterns in the Bangkok Metropolitan Region". Ph.D. students Gunawan Wicaksono and Inka Yusgiantoro also presented their papers, "Spatial Agent Based Modeling of Wealth Inequality and Human Capital with Heterogeneous Agents" and "Asset Price Bubbles: An Economy-Wide Estimate and Policy Implication" respectively.

Ph.D. student Supree Srisamran presented his poster, "A Multiple Objectives Optimization Model for the Power Supply: The Case of Thailand", and Nur Shahrier, another Ph.D. student shared her poster, "What Drives Corporate Saving Glut in China Neighboring Countries?: Empirical Analysis across ASEAN-3".

Not to be shown up by their students, faculty from CRP presented their research as well. Professor Kieran Donaghy presented his research on "The Co-Evolution of Logistics, Globalization, and Spatial Price Competition: Implications for a Unified Theory of Trade and Location" and Professor Yuri Mansury shared his work on "A Spatial Agent-Based Model of Core-Periphery Structures with Heterogeneous Migrants".

CRP students outside of Regional Science were also represented at the conference, including Xiaoling Li, a Ph.D. candidate in CRP who presented her research, "Where are Urban Green Spaces? Cases of Green Space Location and Accessibility in American and Chinese Metropolises: a Spatial Modeling Approach." Year after year, participants in the conference regard it as a wonderful opportunity to learn new ideas and connect with other regional scientists and researchers.

Thanks to Sutee Anantsuksomsri (Ph.D. '12) and Nij Tontisirin (Ph.D. '12) for contributing to this article.

Upstate NY American Planning Association Board Visits West Sibley

On Wednesday, November 9th, the leaders of the Upstate American Planning Association (APA) held their executive board meeting in Sibley Hall. After working through their monthly agenda, which included exploring programming with greater appeal to students, the executive board shared lunch with CRP students and faculty. In the afternoon, a selection of students presented their individual and workshop course research to familiarize upstate professionals with the knowledge-production taking place at Cornell.

Ellen Parker, President of the Board of Upstate APA and Planner at Wendel Companies, remarked, “The Chapter Board was very happy to meet at Cornell. We were impressed with the presentations, and the students did a great job at giving us a good overview of their current work.”

“The positive feedback we received, both on our presentation style and content, acts as a real confidence boost as our workshop class goes forward,” said Lindsay Carter (M.R.P. 2012 Candidate). “The APA presentation meeting also paved the way for important critical interactions and future conversations.”

Recent alumna C.J. Randall (M.R.P. '11), also presented the research she has done on the Marcellus Shale both for CRP's Susan Christopherson and for Cornell's Community and Regional Development Institute (CaRDI). Randall commented, “I'm glad I got to showcase even a sliver of what was in the CaRDI team report led by Susan Christopherson. Natural gas drilling is the biggest planning issue Appalachia has seen in a generation. The more we talk about planning issues related to comprehensive plans and zoning, I think the better it will be for both the profession and the region to understand the issues that are inherent in fracking.”

The program wrapped up with a short participatory discussion led by CRP's Mildred Warner on the grant work she will be doing with students on shared services for New York State. “APA board members provided critical insights on the policy context, alternative ways to look at the issue, additional resources to explore and tips on improving professional presentations,” said Warner. “I was able to conduct a mini-focus group with them on the new shared services project we will be launching in New York State this spring. The interaction reminded me of how lucky CRP is to have such close interaction with practicing professionals; they keep us honest and focused on work that really matters.”

Thanks to Alyson Fletcher (M.R.P./M.L.A. '13) for contributing this article.



Upstate APA Board. Photo by Bill Staffield.



C.J. Randall (M.R.P. '11) presents her research. Photo by Bill Staffield.