

# The Cornell Planner

department of city and regional planning

september 9, 2011

## New Grants and New Guys

Find out what new awards CRP faculty have received, and who these new students are!

### Mildred Warner Receives Grant from USDA

Professor Mildred Warner, in collaboration with David Brown, Professor and Chair of Development Sociology, has been awarded a US Department of Agriculture grant for just under \$500,000. Warner's project, "Great Recession, Fiscal Stress and Demographic Transformation: Implications for Rural Service Delivery and Multi-Generational Planning," will address the challenges local governments face as they attempt to meet the dual challenges of economic recession and demographic transformation.

The Great Recession has spawned an even more serious recession in state and local government finances. However, the fiscal crisis is not the only serious trial currently facing local governments – they also are seeing significant demographic transformation – rising elderly populations and shrinking numbers of children. Many rural governments in particular are discovering that the 'grey gold' of the recently retired loses some of its economic luster as aging residents need more supportive services (para-transit, home health care, meals on wheels, etc.). At the same time, rural areas are seeing the out-migration of young people, as they become economically active adults, and the need to invest more in children and young families especially with the rise in young immigrant families in rural areas. The challenge is to redesign services to meet the needs at both ends of the age spectrum – for children and for the elderly.

Warner and staff will chronicle the demographic transformations occurring in rural communities, explore new service delivery models that address the joint issues of fiscal stress and demographic restructuring, and assess how rural communities are meeting the need for multi-generational planning. Ultimately, the project will support an outreach program for rural community leaders to enhance their understanding of these issues and support their efforts to promote multi-generational planning and service delivery. Although the project maintains a rural focus it will look across the rural-urban spectrum.

The project will be funded for three years and include national surveys of planners and local government managers, as well as interviews and focus groups. Project partners include the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), a leader in local government survey research, in addition to the Rural & Small Town Planning Division and the Women & Planning Division of the American Planning Association (APA). The project will also retain an advisory committee that involves child care and gerontology experts.

CRP students assisting Professor Warner on this project are George Homsy (PhD candidate), Rebecca Baran-Rees (MRP '12), and Matt Styer (MRP '12).



Mildred Warner

### CRP welcomes new students

Well, they're here. The incoming CRP students are all around, chatting in the stairwell, studying under the dome, and sipping espresso in the Green Dragon. But who are all these people and where did they come from?

There are a total of 86 new undergraduate and graduate students in City and Regional Planning, representing 10 countries. International students hail from Chile, China, France, Honduras, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, and Turkey. The domestic students represent 18 states and the District of Columbia. By degree, there are 24 URS, 49 MRP, 8 MA/HPP, 1 MS/RS, 1 Ph.D/CRP, and 3 Ph.D/RS.

The smallest town represented is Happy, TX (pop 647) and the largest city is Beijing, China (pop 19.6 million). Students' homes range from as far south as Santiago, Chile (lat 33°S) to as far north as North Pole, AK (lat 64°N) which, despite the name, is roughly 1700 miles south of Earth's North Pole.

Here are some fun facts:

- There are three returned Peace Corps volunteers
- One student has run for public office
- It's an even-split between dog-owners and cat-owners
- At least one student has never seen snow
- Students play flute, viola, mandolin, guitar, and piano
- Some unique skills of the incoming class include belly dancing, acro-yoga, and helicopter maintenance
- A statistically disproportionate number of students play basketball
- One student moonlights as a barista

Take a minute to say hello!

### In This Issue

Mildred Warner awarded USDA grant

Incoming Class Profile

Stephan Schmidt awarded grant for work in Tanzania

### CRP Resources and Links

#### Club Notices

Annual ISP/IPSO meeting  
Friday, Sep 9, 5pm talk, 6pm meeting  
Miller-Heller House  
122 Eddy St.

#### Events

Friday, Sep. 9, 5pm  
*Porus Olpadwala* talk  
Miller-Heller House  
122 Eddy St.  
(immediately preceding ISP/IPSO meeting)

Friday, Sep. 9, 12:20pm  
*Ruth Schwartz of Shelter Partnership*  
Kaufmann Auditorium, Goldwin Smith Hall

Monday, Sep. 12, 12:15pm  
*Michael Brammah Lecture*  
115 W. Sibley Hall

Wednesday, Sep. 14, 4:30-5:30pm  
Career Matters: First-year CRP grad students  
261 E. Sibley (within fine arts library)

Thursday, Sep. 15, 5:30-6:30pm  
*Making Plans, Not Copies: Tales from Summer Internships & Lessons Learned*  
101 W. Sibley

Friday, Sep. 16, 12:20pm  
*Ken Reardon Lecture*  
Kaufmann Auditorium, Goldwin Smith Hall

Saturday, Sep. 24-25  
*Historic Ithaca Fall Fundraiser Event*  
Richard Meier-designed Dotson House  
Danby, NY

Thursday, Sep. 29-Oct. 1  
*First Year Fall Field Trip to D.C.*

# Stephan Schmidt Awarded Grant for Tanzania Technology Project

Currently, Tanzania is implementing a Property and Business Formalization Program, based on the ideas of Hernando De Soto, the purpose of which is to transform property and business entities in the informal economic sector into legally held and majority operated entities in the formal economy. The Formalization program utilizes GIS to create a comprehensive database, containing both spatial and attribute information on properties. However, GIS is limited in addressing the cultural, historical, and experiential components of everyday life that affect land ownership and use, particularly in data-poor environments. For example, tenure relationships in informal settings are generally more complex and nuanced, as someone may have use rights to



Stephan Schmidt in Tanzania

a farm or utilize land owned by another, through an informal agreement. Standard cadastral mapping with its reliance on Euclidean geometry would not be able to capture some of these secondary or tertiary relationships.

The purpose of the research is to examine both the possibilities and the obstacles involved in using GIS in 'formalizing' and incorporating existing customary tenure. It will then look beyond the more conventional applications of GIS, to the role of participatory GIS approaches in creating a richer picture of ownership patterns in peri-urban spaces. This portion of the research will examine the limitations of using GIS in peri-urban Dar es Salaam and how public involvement might address and overcome them.

In order to carry out the project, Schmidt and Peñalver will collaborate with a number of local partners. These include the University of Dar Es Salaam Department of City and Regional Planning as well as two research and policy think tanks: Research on Poverty Alleviation (REPOA) and the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF). With these partners, a participation-based survey will be created and field-tested with the purpose of overcoming some of the limitations of GIS, creating a more robust understanding of tenure, social relationships, and neighborhood quality. This will involve a number of qualitative techniques for data gathering, such as interviews, focus group discussions, participatory mental mapping, and participant observation.

Because the project partner organizations have many contacts within the Ministry of Lands, Housing, Human Settlements (in particular the Survey and Mapping Division), and the Property and Business Formalization Program itself, they will be a key part of identifying individuals for interviews. The organizations will also aid coordination efforts with the University of Dar Es Salaam Department of City and Regional Planning to obtain student assistance with field work.

## Faculty Updates

**Jeff Chusid** published a report on concrete preservation for the World Monuments Fund: <http://www.wmf.org/dig-deeper/publication/preserving-textile-block-florida-southern-college>

**Nancy Brooks** and **Kieran Donaghy** completed their book, "The Oxford Handbook of Urban Economics and Planning" this summer. The Handbook should be available in November. <http://www.oup.com/us/catalog/general/subject/Economics/Urban/?view=usa&sf=toc>

## Funding Opportunities

Deadline: Nov. 1, 2011, Graduate Research Funding - \$20,000  
[National Estuarine Research Reserve System \(NERRS\)](#)

Deadline: Nov. 1, 2011, Graduate Funding - \$90,000  
[Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowships for New Americans](#)

Deadline: Nov. 14, 2011, Predoctoral Program Funding - \$20,000  
[Ford Foundation Fellowship Program](#)

Deadline: Dec. 11, 2011, Graduate Funding - \$9,000  
[Kate Neal Kinley Memorial Fellowship, Urban and Regional Planning](#)

LASP Tinker Graduate Student Field Research Grants: provide funding for graduate students interested in Latin America and the Caribbean to carry out research in the field. For more information, please contact LASP at [lasp@einuadi.cornell.edu](mailto:lasp@einuadi.cornell.edu) or Rebecca Snyder at [rms299@cornell.edu](mailto:rms299@cornell.edu)

## Other Opportunities

Presidential Management Fellowships: Application period for 2012 is September 15-25, 2011, with nominations due September 30, 2011. For more information: <http://www.pmf.gov/>

Present your work at the APA National conference in LA. Submit proposals by October 11. For more information: <http://www.planning.org/conference/proposals.htm>