Dear UPP Friends,

Greetings from Chicago! We are pleased to present you with the 2019 newsletter, reviewing key happenings and achievements of the departmental members and affiliates. After three years of service, Professor Zorica Nedović-Budić has passed the headship baton to Professor Nik Theodore. The College of Urban Planning & Public Affairs (CUPPA), department, students and alumni have expressed their gratitude to both for their past and forthcoming leadership, respectively, and their commitment for continuing forward-looking and constructive guidance and governance. Professor Nedović-Budić will keep busy with her research and in a new role of Midwest representative on the ACSP’s Governing Board.

In 2019 UIC welcomed the John Marshall Law School under its institutional structure, as the first public law school in the Chicago region. Many collaborative opportunities have been identified between UPP and John Marshall in the areas of affordable and fair housing, real estate, and public policy. Program-wise, in 2019 the department launched the one-year Master of City Design (MCD) program and received a full re-accreditation of the Master’s of Urban Planning and Policy (MUPP) degree by the Planning Accreditation Board. Our Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies also continued to flourish in the context of a strong College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs and a sister undergraduate degree in Public Policy. To help with the program delivery several excellent people have joined the departmental ranks. With an outstanding team of existing and new faculty, diligent students, alumni and associates – all dedicated to urban justice and equity – department and its programs continue to enjoy high rankings, and, more importantly, reputation and respect at all levels. Read on about many of the exciting UPP contributions to the advancement of urban planning and policy education, research, and practice over the past year and learn what is coming next.

Zorica Nedović-Budić and Nik Theodore
UPP Welcomes New Faculty
This fall, UPP was pleased to gain three new faculty members. Dr. Şevin Yildiz joined UPP as Assistant Professor. Dr. Yildiz, whose original training was in Turkey as an architect and urban designer, earned her PhD at Rutgers and previously taught at Barnard and Columbia Colleges. Dr. Ahoura Zandiatashbar, who graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington, joined UPP as Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor and Geopatial Data Scientist supporting the departmental Urban Data Visualization Lab. Dr. Emily Talen, Professor of Urbanism at the University of Chicago, joined UPP this fall as an adjunct faculty and an advisory board member for the Master of City Design program. A warm welcome to all three!

Awards and Recognitions

UPP Professor Emeritus Charles Hoch received a Journal of Planning Education and Research (JPER) Top Reviewer award at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Conference in October 2019.
Professor Teresa Cordova (pictured below) was named a Hispanic Heritage Month honoree by Illinois State Comptroller Susana Mendoza. Dr. Cordova, who serves on the UPP faculty and as Director for the Great Cities Institute, is heavily involved in public service at both the local and state levels.

Dr. Teresa Córdova
Director of the Great Cities Institute (GCI), University of Illinois at Chicago

Dr. Stacey Sutton (above, left), UPP Assistant Professor and Faculty Fellow in the Institute of Research on Race & Public Policy (IRRPP) received the 2019 Best Conference Paper Award, Honorable Mention at the Urban Affairs Association Conference. Her paper, “Cooperative Cities: Municipal Support for Worker Cooperatives in the United States,” was lauded for laying the groundwork for more research on cooperatives.

Professor John Betancur (left) was awarded the 2019 Silver Circle Award in May. Silver Circle Awards are given out for excellence in teaching and recipients are selected by graduating UIC seniors. In August, Dr. Betancur, who has been a CUPPA faculty member for over 30 years, was honored by the Illinois Judges Association as a Latinx History Maker. Dr. Betancur has worked extensively on community and economic development in the U.S. and Latin America.
STUDENT AWARDS

UPP students received many prestigious awards and scholarships in 2019. Recognition included:

Allison Izguerra, Edward Thompson, Kayla Butler and Gerald Bufford (BA US)
UIC Chancellor’s Student Service and Leadership awards for contributions to campus and the Chicago community. Students were recognized at a ceremony in April

Kira Baltutis (MUPP ‘19)
APA International Division Student Grant Award to conduct research in Jaipur

Jessica Jones (MUPP ‘19)
APA Economic Development Division Honorable Mention for the Holzheimer Memorial Student Scholarship for Economic Development

Mary Nicol (MUPP ‘19)
Mary’s essay was featured in the Planetizen 2019 Guide to Urban Planning Programs, as well as on the Planetizen website

Shantanu Pai (MUPP ’19, current PhD student)
Won the Early Career Investigator Award from the Illinois Prairie Research Center

Em Hall (current PhD student)
Awarded the Dwight D. Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship by the U.S. Department of Transportation

Dr. Brenda Parker (above) received a 2018-2019 Teaching Recognition Program Award. At the ceremony, it was noted that Dr. Parker “cares deeply about helping students become vibrant participants in community and work life.”

PhD student Em Hall, pictured below speaking at the 2019 Transportation Research Board annual meeting, was awarded the Dwight D. Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship both in 2019 and 2020. Em works with Dr. Kate Lowe on the role of nonprofits in public-private partnerships for transportation.
Alumni Highlights

Ciere Boatright (MUPP ’16) won the Jim Marek CUPPA Alumni Appreciation Award. Ms. Boatright, who is Vice President of Real Estate and Inclusion for the Chicago Neighborhood Initiatives, Inc. was also named one of Crain’s 2019 Notable Women in Commercial Real Estate and was featured in Chicago Scholars’ 35 Under 35 in 2019.

Vitaliy Vladimirov (MUPP ’17), a community designer at MUSE, received the 2019 Emerging Planner Award from APA-Illinois.

Rebecca Retzlaf (PhD ’06), Associate Professor at Auburn University’s Community Planning program, was recognized as one of Auburn University’s Engaged Scholars.

Elizabeth Scott (MUPP ’12), Senior Planner, and Tina Fassett-Smith (MUPP ’12), Communications Principal for Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), were both lead figures in drafting CMAP’s ONTO 2050, which was released in 2019 and won an APA-Illinois Project Award. ONTO 2050 regional plan guides investments and frames regional priorities on development, the environment, the economy and other issues affecting quality of life in the Chicagoland area. Many other MUPPs and MUPP alumni were also involved in the ONTO 2050 project, including Dustin Calliari, Cindy Cambray, Enrique Castillo, Jesse Elam, Kate Evasic, Kristin Ihncak, Maggie Jarr, Ricardo Lopez, Jen Maddux, Tony Manno, Martin Menninger, Kelsey Pudlock, and Jacob Seid. A large number of MUPP interns also contributed to the project, including current MUPP Erin Ludwig.
UPP Faculty Involvement in City of Chicago and Cook County Government

With the election of Lori Lightfoot, several UPP faculty were invited to serve on the new mayor’s transition committees. Janet Smith, Professor and Co-Director of the UIC Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement, was selected to serve on the Housing Committee, and Kate Lowe, Associate Professor, was selected to serve on the Transportation Committee. UPP Professor and Director of the Great Cities Institute, Teresa Cordova, was also recently named by Mayor Lightfoot as Chair of the Chicago Plan Commission. Dr. Cordova also sits on the Cook County Economic Development Advisory Committee.

MUPPs Elected to Office Throughout Chicago

Faculty are not the only UPP participants in local government. MUPP Daniel La Spata was elected alderman of Chicago’s first ward this year; Josina Morita (MUPP ’10) was elected as a commissioner on the Chicago Metropolitan Water Reclamation District; and Catalina Nava-Esparza (MUPP ’10) was elected as a trustee for the Village of Alsip.

CUPPA Alumni Guide Current Students

Throughout the year, the CUPPA Alumni Association hosts programs and events to network with and provide professional guidance to current UPP students. In February, the Association hosted CUPPA Career Day, at which UPP and Public Administration undergraduate and graduate students were given the opportunity to work on resumes and conduct mock interviews. In October, the Association kicked off the 2019 school year with ‘Planning Your Future’ a question and answer session with CUPPA Alumni. Strong ties with alumni help UPP students gain contacts in the professional world.
MUPP Plan-Making Students Tackle Local Issues
In this year’s Plan-Making course, MUPP students designed plans for Chicago’s Industrial Corridor Modernization Initiative. Three teams of MUPP students each applied a range of planning skills to real issues affecting the city of Chicago. In May, students presented their final plans to a broad audience.

Urban Studies Seniors Present Capstone Projects
During the Spring 2019 semester, seniors in the Urban Studies undergraduate program worked on eight different projects throughout the Chicagoland area. The Senior Capstone is the culmination of students’ academic experience and requires field work, data and policy analysis, and design in order to make recommendations on their various projects, which primarily focused on Chicago’s Austin neighborhood.

Urban Studies Capstone Projects

- Impact of new CTA Red Line station in the Dearborn Park neighborhood
- The Civic Engagement portion of the Austin neighborhood qualify of life plan with Austin Coming Together
- Youth empowerment initiative with Austin Coming Together
- Economic development strategies in the Austin Neighborhood with Austin Coming Together
- Feasibility of urban agriculture in Northwest Indiana
- Commercial revitalization with the Village of Lake Barrington
- Oak Park’s Envision 2014 plan evaluation
- Impact of a new non-profit mentoring and urban gardening program in Chicago’s 7th Ward

UPP Urban Studies students Rafael Cervantes, Gabrielle Sanders, and Kayla Butler present their senior capstone project at the 2019 Project Showcase. At the annual showcase, UPP students share work from throughout the year with fellow students, faculty, and local professionals.
Above: MUPP Spatial Planning students gather to share their final projects last spring under guidance of Houseal Lavigne’s principal John Houseal. They worked on a plan to cover a section of US290 transecting the community of Oak Park.

Above: Spatial Planning Studio focused on the development around United Center Arena, prompted by a new Green Line L / metro station at the intersection of N. Damen and Lake Streets.

Master of City Design students, faculty, and professional affiliates pose at the Fall City Design Showcase. At the Showcase, the inaugural cohort of MCD students shared designs for Plano and Oak Park, Illinois. Among those in attendance were CUPPA Urban Scholar Les Pollock of Camiros Ltd., Camila Simas and Diane Legge of CallisonRTKL, Plano mayor Bob Hauler, and Plano Director of Planning Tom Karpus.
GLOBAL REACH

UPP is buzzing with an international atmosphere with faculty, students, and visitors from around the world. Faculty were invited to give talks about their research across the globe and UPP students studied abroad in a variety of locations. This year, the College also held its first International Gathering, which provided the opportunity for people from different cultural backgrounds to come together, share food, and get to know one another.

Fulbright Scholars Join UPP
UPP welcomed three new Fulbright scholars to the MUPP program in Fall 2019. Zenaid Santos is from Angola and received her Bachelor’s degree from the University Federal de Vicosa in Brazil. Andry Gonzalez Meza is from Colombia and earned her Bachelor’s degree from Universidad de Cartagena. Agustin Chiarella is from Argentina and received his undergraduate degree from the University of Buenos Aires. The students join Alejandra Marin Buitrago, a UPP PhD Fulbright student from Colombia who entered the program in 2018.

MUPP Students Study Abroad
In January 2019, Kira Baltutis (MUPP) joined architecture students representing ENSA Toulouse and Aayojan Jaipur universities in a two-week field analysis to study the crucial role of water planning in rapidly-growing Jaipur, Rajasthan, India, and the city’s surrounding territories. Baltutis received an APA International Division Student Grant Award, which she used to fund her research abroad. In July, MUPP students traveled to ENSA Toulouse and Lucerne University in Switzerland. In Toulouse, students engaged in a week-long intensive study of heritage planning in France. They investigated two sites that each include a historic church, a green space, and adjacent arterial streets with heavy traffic. Students also conducted archival research to aide their plan-making. UPP has a well-established exchange program with both ENSA Toulouse and Lucerne University, as well as University College Dublin.

Left: MUPP Kira Baltutis with students from ENSA Toulouse and Aayojan Jaipur universities in Jaipur, India.
Professor Sanjeev Vidyarthi Leads Workshop in Jaipur
Dr. Sanjeev Vidyarthi led a week-long Teachers Training Workshop sponsored by Arcasia (the umbrella organization of national institutes of architecture in Asia) as the chief tutor in collaboration with local coordinators and select speakers. The workshop, which included practical case studies and relevant tools and techniques, focused on the pedagogical aspect of teaching how to design in historic urban contexts, and was attended by about 50 teachers of architecture drawn from 14 countries.
**Professor Kheir Al-Kodmany Travels to China, Germany and Panama**
Throughout Summer 2019, Professor Kheir Al-Kodmany delivered keynote addresses and gave talks at several locations in China, including Tongji University in Shanghai, Guilin University, Guanxing University, and the Hualan Design Company in Nanning. Topics included spatial planning from the perspective of rural-urban assembly and vertical urbanism. While at Tongji University, Professor Al-Kodmany also led a two-week workshop for 125 urban planning Ph.D. students who were selected from the world’s top-tier universities. In September, Professor Al-Kodmany gave a keynote speech at the *Visual Communication in Urban Design and Planning conference* in Berlin, Germany. In October, he delivered a keynote speech on big data and advances in science and technology at the *International Engineering Science and Technology conference* in Panama City, Panama. During his visit, he also delivered a keynote on urban sprawl to the Technological University of Panama.

**Additional UPP Travel Highlights**
In May, Professors Rachel Weber and Phil Ashton (pictured below, right) attended the *Frontiers of Urban Financialization* workshop, hosted by the University of Lyon. In October, Dr. Stacey Sutton traveled to Accra, Ghana to participate in the *Year of Return to Cooperatives conference*. There, Dr. Sutton moderated a panel entitled *What Does a Pan African Solidarity Economy Network Look Like?* In November, Professors Zorica Nedović-Budić and Sanjeev Vidyarthi (pictured left) traveled to multiple locations in India, including Mumbai where they participated in a seminar at Aditya College entitled *Growing Importance of City Design for Urban India*. The seminar drew parallels between the history of development in Chicago and the issues facing mega-cities in the developing world. Professor Brenda Parker also traveled extensively, delivering a lecture at ELTE University in Budapest, Hungary entitled *Gendered and Feminist Community Development in Chicago & Gender, Race, and Urban Politics*, and delivering a talk at Paris Nanterre University entitled *Feminist and Queer Urban Imaginations*. 
CONVERSATIONS

City Design Conversations
In 2019, UPP continued its City Design Conversations series, hosted by the department’s new Master of City Design program. In February, essayist and biographer Adina Hoffman gave a talk entitled, *Til We Have Built Jerusalem: Architects of a New City*. In April, Philip Enquist, Consulting Partner City Design at SOM, and Rahul Mehrotra, Principal RMA and Professor at Harvard’s Graduate School of Design, participated on a panel on the current state of city design practice. The first conversation of the 2019-20 academic year, *The Craft of City Design*, was held in September and featured Professors Robert Fishman and Douglas Kelbaugh, both of the University of Michigan. The talk was moderated by new UPP Assistant Professor Dr. Şevin Yildiz.

GIS Day
The department’s Urban Data Visualization Lab (UDVL) organized yet another successful annual event with about 100 attendees from across UIC and Chicago region. The program focused on Geospatial Exploration of Community and Global Disparities In An International Context. Check out the highlights.

Urban Forum 2019
The keynote at this year’s Forum was delivered by Erin Aleman, a MUPP alumna and current Executive Director at the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning. Each year the Urban Forum, which is organized by CUPPA, tackles important contemporary issues affecting our cities and communities. The theme of the 2019 Forum was Are We There Yet? The Myths and Realities of Autonomous Vehicles. The 2019 Urban Forum was co-hosted by CUPPA’s Urban Transportation Center, which celebrated its 40th anniversary this year.
Friday Forums
The College of Urban Planning PhD Students (CUPPS) continued to host their Friday Forum series this past year. Speakers from across the country were brought in to discuss a variety of important issues. Talks from 2019 included author Sean Dinces, a faculty member at Long Beach City College, discussing his book *Bulls Markets: Chicago’s Basketball Business and the New Inequality, Yes, Gentrification Displaces People* with MIT Assistant Professor Devin Michelle Bunten, and *Should the Law Subsidize Driving?* with Gregory Shill of University of Iowa. In the first Friday Forum of the 2019-20 academic year, UPP PhD students hosted Professor Sofia Dermisi, of University of Washington, for a talk examining the effect of energy benchmarking in New York City, San Francisco, Chicago, and Washington D.C., as well as the effect of sharing economy and millennials on office buildings.

UPP Faculty Lead Andrew Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminars
UPP faculty led by Dr. Stacey Sutton, UIC’s [Great Cities Institute](https://greatcitiesinstitute.uic.edu/) and UIC’s [Social Justice Initiative](https://www.uic.edu/socialjustice/) received a Sawyer Seminar award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to organize a 3-part seminar entitled *Urban Edges: Dreams, Division, and Infrastructures – Comparative Cross-Disciplinary Dialogues about 21st Century American Cities*. In October, they gathered with other UPP faculty and PhD students, as well as faculty from UIC and other universities across the country, community organizers, and artists. The group discussed issues broadly related to property precarity, informal labor, solidarity economies, or migration/(im)mobility.
**Urban Innovation Symposium**

In January, the Urban Planning and Policy Student Association (UPPSA) hosted the ninth annual Urban Innovation Symposium. The Symposium focused on collaborative creativity and how it may be used to solve the many issues challenging the urban environment. The event included deep-dive lectures, panel discussions, and a more casual evening event where urban professionals delivered discussions and presentations while attendees were able to network and enjoy refreshments. The Symposium’s keynote speaker was Amara Enyia, Director of the Austin Chamber of Commerce and the Chief Executive Officer of ACE Municipal Partners.

**CUPPA Speaker Series With Michael Batty**

In May, UPP co-hosted the CUPPA Speaker Series featuring Dr. Michael Batty, Emeritus Professor of Planning at University College London and Chair of the Center for Advanced Spatial Analysis. Professor Batty discussed his most recent book, *Inventing Future Cities*, and explored the ways in which we can use technology to inform the urban future that we wish to build.

Right: UPP Professors Kheir Al-Kodmany and Moira Zellner, Director of UDVL, with University College London Professor Michael Batty.
UPP Faculty Weigh In On Chicago Planning Issues
This past year, Chicago grappled with a wide range of high-profile planning and development issues, which UPP faculty were regularly invited to weigh in on. Professor Kate Lowe was routinely consulted by various media outlets on Chicago’s electric scooter pilot program, which ran from June through October, and has offered insight on the risks of making scooters a more permanent transit option throughout the city. Articles and interviews featuring Dr. Lowe’s perspective can be found in a variety of publications, including Streetsblog, the Chicago Tribune, and WTTW, among others. As Chicago officials recommend a second pilot program in 2020, we can expect to be hearing more from Dr. Lowe!

In April, Professor Rachel Weber was interviewed by NPR’s Marketplace on Chicago’s Lincoln Yards Development. In the interview, Dr. Weber addresses the shaky history of the city’s minority contracting program. In July, Dr. Weber’s work on tax increment financing was also featured in a Wall Street Journal article about Lincoln Yards. Lincoln Yards is a mixed-use development project along the Chicago’s riverfront that seeks to unite Lincoln Park and Bucktown. In September, Professor Janet Smith was featured in a widely-distributed AP article discussing the impact of the proposed Obama Center on the cost of living in the surrounding neighborhoods. A study on the issue was conducted by the Voorhees Center on Neighborhood and Community Development, of which Dr. Smith is a co-director.

Above: President Barack Obama addressing plans for the proposed Obama Presidential Center on Chicago’s South Side. Photo credit: Washington Times.

Above: A plan for Chicago’s Lincoln Yards development project.
Charles Hoch Releases New Book
UPP Professor Emeritus Charles Hoch published *Pragmatic Spatial Planning: Practical Theory for Professionals*. The book, which was released over the summer, seeks to bridge the gap between theory and practice in the planning field and offers practitioners a vocabulary to better articulate, and interrogate, thought processes and decision-making.

Joshua Drucker Explores Innovation Districts
UPP Professor Joshua Drucker published a video, with Carla Kayanan of University College Dublin, exploring the potential of innovation districts in fostering urban economic development. The video summarizes the work outlined in a forthcoming article.

Peer-Reviewed Publications
UPP faculty published in many outlets including, but not limited to:
- Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development
- Science of the Total Environment
- Resource, Conservation, and Recycling
- Journal of Cleaner Production
- International Journal of High-Rise Buildings
- Buildings
- International Journal of Architectural Research
- Economic Geography
- Journal of Transport Geography
- Journal of Transportation and Land Use
- Public Works Management & Policy
- Transportation Research Record
- Planning Theory
- Journal of Urban Affairs
- Urban Affairs Review
- South Atlantic Quarterly
- Workplace Health & Safety
- Political Power and Social Theory
- Community Development Journal
- Transportation
- Earth’s Future
- Transportation Planning and Technology
- Environmental Modelling and Software
- Elementa: Science of the Anthropocene
- Ecology and Evolution
- Planning Perspectives
- Journal of the American Planning Association (JAPA)
- Transactions of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP)

Other Publication and Media Highlights
In April, the South Atlantic Quarterly released an issue co-edited by UPP Professor Nik Theodore. The issue, published by Duke University Press, is entitled *Neoliberalism’s Authoritarian (Re)Turns*.

In June, UPP Professor Moira Zellner and Director of UPP’s Urban Data and Visualization Laboratory was quoted in a Forbes magazine article discussing biodiversity and its relation to cities at the French-American climate talks.

In August, UPP faculty member and Director of the Urban Transportation Center Dr. P.S. Sriraj was interviewed by CBS 2 Chicago on the growing problem of CTA track trespassing.

In October, UPP Professor Teresa Cordova, Director of the Great Cities Institute, was featured in a WBEZ story about the impact that the divestment of manufacturing companies in Chicago had on area neighborhoods, especially on the city’s West Side.
Urban Innovation Symposium 2020
UIC’s Urban Planning and Policy Student Association is hosting the 10th annual Urban Innovation Symposium on January 24th, 2019. The 2020 Urban Innovation Symposium will return to its roots by focusing on collaborative creativity to solve a plethora of problems challenging the urban environment. This year’s symposium touches on Mobility Justice; Water justice and accessibility; Food systems; Emerging migration trends in Chicago; the tensions between public and private approaches in housing; and of course, the 2020 Census Efforts. [completed]

Sawyer Seminar – Live Podcast: Urban Edges Structural Care and Radical Alternatives
Themes: Informal labor and solidarity economy; Structural violence / care & food justice; Property and precarity & migration/ (im)mobility; Environmental justice & public space/ social transformation/ water. Saturday, March 14, 2020 | 10:00am-4:00pm. [postponed]

Urban Transportation Center Spring Seminar Series
Topics: Community Mobility Among People with Disabilities: Implications for Health Outcomes and Access to Care [completed]; Causes and Impacts of Car-Dependency on Health and Quality of Life [postponed]

Great Cities Institute Events
The Great Cities Institute has a number of talks scheduled throughout Spring 2020, including Cities Across the Globe Series with Professor Melinda Benko, visiting from the Department of Urban Planning and Design at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics. The talk is about the major cities on the Danube, highlighting their distinct contexts and geopolitical backgrounds. [completed] Other events: Views from the Streets: The Transformation of Gangs and Violence on March 20 [postponed]; Fair Fares Chicagoland: Advocating for Equitable Transit on March 31 [postponed]; Building Bridges: Community and University Partnerships in East St. Louis on April 29 [on hold]; and Climate Justice Meets Global Health on May 4 [on hold].

Stay Connected
You can reach us anytime at upp@uic.edu. As always, keep an eye on the UPP and College events calendars for upcoming speakers and discussions with UPP faculty, local practitioners, visiting scholars, and more. Events are held nearly every week and all are free and open to the public. The activities of UPP faculty and students are also regularly updated on our departmental news feed. UPP is looking forward to seeing you at events at UIC, around Chicago, across the US, and abroad. In addition to keeping with us on our website, you can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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