A newsletter for alumni and friends of the

**Department of Urban and Regional Planning • SUMMER 2016** 

# CONNECTIONS



# **URPL Graduates in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Area**

By Mark Vander Schaaf (MS '85)

It's not surprising that many URPL graduates end up in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul area. This region is the fastest-growing major metropolitan area in the Midwest. Generations of URPL students have been taught about the virtues of planning in the Twin Cities, such as its multifunctional regional government with a unique tax-base sharing system and statutory mandate that all communities update their comprehensive plans every ten years.

Knowing that the region hosts so many of its graduates, the URPL Alumni Relations Council (ARC) supported a pilot project to create a Twin Cities URPL Alumni Group to provide opportunities both to socialize and support URPL, its students, and its alumni. As a 2013 charter member of ARC, I organized the Twin Cities group and helped arrange its connections to URPL. We were especially gratified to have URPL's then-chair Dave Marcouiller visit us in 2015, to host a focus group providing

input into the department's reaccreditation process.

I arrived in the Twin Cities in 1986, and retired in July 2016, after a career encompassing both local and regional government. It's been fascinating to help the region develop during this period, while it grew by nearly a million people and transformed in some ways that were typical of metropolitan America, but in other ways were uniquely Minnesotan. Broadly speaking, the first half of my career was dominated by the theme of waterfront improvement—sewer separation and deindustrialization unleashing an era that transformed our riverfronts from places to avoid to neighborhoods with high-quality parks, housing, and other amenities. By the turn of the millennium, a new focus arose, even as riverfront development continued. Since then, we have been in an age of urban re-densification and multi-modal transportation, adding rail to our transit system and creating a robust infrastructure of

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# **Professional Project Forum**

On Friday, May 13, 2016, in the Old Courtroom at the Madison Municipal Building, graduating professional planning students presented posters and gave presentations on their professional projects that showcased the application of their area of interest to a real-world scenario or plan analysis. There were over 75 guests and presenters in attendance, many from the City of Madison planning division, Dane County planning office, and area planning firms. Both the department and the Alumni Relations Council (ARC) view this as an important opportunity to showcase student work, network with local planning professionals, and develop goodwill among alumni and local stakeholders. This was the first year a panel of expert planning professional judges scored all the posters of graduating students and picked a winner: Congratulations to Natalie Cotter, for her poster "What Small Communities can do to Promote Local Food Production through Beginning Farmer Access to Land."

This was the 3rd annual Professional Project Forum. Mark your calendar for next year's forum on Friday, May 12, 2017.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

We would like to invite all alumni, planning practitioners, and friends of the department to join us for a Welcome Back! mixer on Thursday, September 15, 2016, on the rooftop terrace at the Pyle Center, starting around 4:30 p.m. This mixer kicks off a year of events with the department and the Alumni Relations Council (ARC), bringing together alumni, incoming and current students, department faculty and staff, and local planning professionals. Join us on the Pyle Center's rooftop terrace to relax, enjoy the view, and to meet and network with fellow planners and planning students. There will be light refreshments and a cash bar, and hopefully some beautiful weather! If you're interested in attending this event or others like it, email emily.reynolds@wisc. edu to get your name on our local-events mailing list.

Jonathan Jarvis, director of the National Park Service, will deliver the 5th annual Jordahl Lecture on Monday, October 10, at 7 p.m. in Shannon Hall at Memorial Union. bicycling and walking paths to serve both recreational and transportation purposes. Now, in the mid-2010s, I'm seeing a renewed emphasis on water, both regionally and nationally.

There's a growing recognition that the water quality improvements in the late 20th century were, in retrospect, low-hanging fruit. Now our region, nation, and world are striving to articulate and implement a one water philosophy, linking together waste, storm, surface, and groundwater systems into a strategy integrated with land use, transportation, and other planning issues. All of this is emerging within a context of growing income and racial disparities in a natural environment stressed by a bewildering variety of water-related climate changes. Every region is facing some combination of too much (e.g., sea level rise), too little (desertification, groundwater depletion), too destructive (unprecedented massive flooding), and/or too polluted (including difficult-to-control non-point pollution) water. With its high-quality freshwater endowment, the Upper Midwest is unusually well-positioned to survive and perhaps even thrive in such an environment, but imaginative leadership from planners and citizens will be needed to ensure success.

URPL graduates in the Twin Cities Area are mostly employed by governments working on such issues. These are some of our contributions:

# STATE GOVERNMENT

Jamie Macalister (MS '05): An environmental review consultant for the Minnesota Department of Commerce.

# REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

Mark Vander Schaaf (MS '85): For the past 12 years I was the Metropolitan Council's regional planning director. My staff was responsible for research, regional policy frameworks, housing policy, and local planning assistance. I also supervised the staff, providing funding and policy direction for the regional park and trail system. In retirement, I have gigs lined up (1) advising the organization Forecast Public Art regarding a new National Endowment for the Arts grant they received in partnership with the

American Planning Association to incorporate public art into city planning processes; (2) running for office as the chair of the American Planning Association Regional and Intergovernmental Division; and (3) collaborating with the British urbanist Charles Landry on a new book regarding the personality of cities.

Scott Janowiak (MS'12): After working with WisDOT and a private consulting firm, Scott came to work for the MetroTransit division of Metropolitan Council in 2015. Scott works on bus rapid transit planning involving projects seeking federal New Starts funding.

# **COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

Colin Kelly (MS '06): Since 2014, Colin has worked as a senior planner with Washington County, bordering on the St. Croix River and Wisconsin. He's responsible for coordinating and implementing strategic planning initiatives.

Sandra Goslee (MS'87): Just southeast of the official Twin Cities metropolitan area is Olmsted County, centered on Rochester and the famous Mayo Clinic. Sandra is a senior planner for this county, working on issues including water and land use. Rochester has received major state funding to continue developing as a world-class destination medical center.

### CITY GOVERNMENT: SAINT PAUL

Saint Paul has proven to be an especially powerful magnet for URPL graduates over the years, perhaps because it's closer to Madison than is Minneapolis? Three URPL graduates currently work for the Saint Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED), and one has recently retired.

Allen Lovejoy (MS '75): Retired in 2014 after a 38-year PED career focusing on transportation and economic development issues. He was instrumental in shaping the route of the highly successful Green Line light rail that now connects downtown Saint Paul with downtown Minneapolis. In retirement, Al and his wife are traveling extensively throughout

Europe and writing a newsletter about urban affairs, politics, and history.

Lucy Thompson (MS'81): A 28-year PED veteran. Lucy has been a pioneer in introducing new-urbanist ideas into the Twin Cities area, both in transit-oriented and riverfront situations. She is the city's lead urban designer for downtown and riverfront projects. Her work on a new river-balcony project is expected to result in an amenity similar to New York's celebrated High Line, overlooking the head of navigation of the mighty Mississippi. Other downtown/riverfront projects for Lucy include the block surrounding the Central Station LRT stop, riverfront properties being redeveloped by Ramsey County, the Seven Corners Gateway Area by the Xcel Energy Center (NHL hockey arena), and the West Side Flats—a new urban village across the river from downtown. If that weren't enough, Lucy is also project manager for the decennial update of the city's comprehensive plan. And Lucy also will be replacing me as the Twin Cities representative to the URPL Alumni Relations Council when I step down after my retirement.

Allen Torstenson (MS '79): Another multi-decade URPL veteran of PED. Responsible for managing the city's zoning function.

Jamie Radel (MS'05): A newcomer to PED (since March 2016). With a background including economic development expertise, she will undoubtedly continue the great tradition of Lucy and the two Als.

# OTHER CITIES

Kim Lindquist (MS '86): Community development director for the City of Rosemount, a suburb southeast of Saint Paul. Rosemount is on the growing edge of the region and features a mix of residential development, agricultural research, and industry, including one of the largest oil refineries in the U.S.

Liz Heyman (MS'12): Planner with the City of Bloomington, home of the Mall of America. Liz specializes in the land use/transportation interface in the Twin Cities' largest suburb, undergoing an impressive transformation to become more transit-friendly.

Meg Mc Monigal (MS '85): Principal planner in St. Louis Park, a southwestern Minneapolis suburb that recently developed the West End, a major mixed-use neighborhood, and is slated to co-host the region's next light rail line.

Patrick Trudgeon (MS '96): City manager for Roseville, on the northern edge of Saint Paul. Roseville is the northern terminus for the A Line, the region's first true bus rapid-transit line. The A Line intersects with the Green Line light rail and eventually will connect to the region's new major league soccer stadium, currently under development in Saint Paul's Midway neighborhood.

# OTHER GOVERNMENT

Anna Brown (MS'15): A recent URPL graduate now serving as a planner and project manager for the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District. Minnehaha Creek is both beautiful and legendary, with kayaking and bicycle trails connecting Prince's "purifying waters of Lake Minnetonka" to the Mississippi River; including Minnehaha Falls, celebrated by the 19th-century poet Longfellow.

# PRIVATE SECTOR

Not all URPL graduates end up working for government. Private sector URPL graduates in the Twin Cities Area include:

# **CONSULTING FIRMS**

Adam Smith (MS'11), a transportation planner for WSB working on an array of transportation issues and projects including corridor studies, comprehensive plans, environmental documents, grant applications, and public engagement; Bob Gollnik (MS '06) freight analyst for Cambridge Systematics; David Carlson (MS '87), office manager for SEH in the Eau Claire area; Erik Carlson (MS '09), senior project manager at ERM; Kevin White (MS '09), transportation planner at Kimley-Horn.

### MAIOR CORPORATIONS

Dave Drewiske (MS '85), recently retired corporate real estate manager for 3M; Lisa Clemens (MS'80), senior director of investor relations for Cargill.

### Conclusion

The Twin Cities URPL contingent is definitely an all-star lineup, contributing in a wide variety of ways to one of the nation's most exciting and innovative metropolitan areas. I know that I speak for all of us in crediting our professors and fellow students at URPL for setting us on a path where we could flourish in such an environment.

# CONNECTIONS

Clare Christoph **Emily Reynolds** Ken Genskow

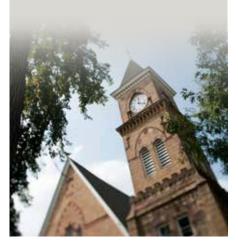
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# Message from the Chair



Ken Genskow

Summer Greetings from Old
Music Hall! We've celebrated the graduation of another class of MS
URPL students
and look forward to welcoming the next cohort joining us this

fall. Faculty and staff are catching up on research and other projects, and for the first time in a long time, URPL offered a few summer courses. One of them, taught by Assistant Professor Revel Sims, was an applied planning methods course working with eviction data about Dane County.

Professor Sims' class feeds into the theme of UW-Madison's Go Big Read book for the 2016-17 academic year, Evicted by Matthew Desmond, a graduate of UW-Madison's Department of Sociology, now on the faculty at Harvard. Evicted (Crown Press, 2016), sure to become a classic book on housing, offers an accessible and nuanced perspective on challenges of housing, social equity, and many related planning themes. We are excited about this choice and look forward to using the campus focus on this book to highlight URPL and our connections to these challenging issues through our research, education, and service activities.

Our workshop this fall will bring a number of those activities together for the City of Monona, Wisconsin. URPL is taking part in a pilot UniverCity Year initiative at UW–Madison that aims to coordinate multiple interdisciplinary courses to focus on a set of needs identified with a Wisconsin city. URPL students will help address housing and alternative transportation issues for Monona, and we'll also help the UniverCity Year initiative address coordination and evaluation challenges in this pilot program.

Many thanks to Mark Vander Schaaf and other URPL alumni in the Twin Cities for sharing their planning experiences in the lead article for this issue of *Connections*. Mark, congratulations on a wonderful career, and thanks again for your help getting URPL ARC and its Twin Cities chapter off the ground. To other URPL alumni, please be in touch if you would like to join forces with URPL alumni to write a focused *Connections* article about planning in your area.

Thanks are also due to the many alumni who helped with URPL's MS reaccreditation process this past year. The Planning Accreditation Board will determine our status this November, but the preliminary report identified many program strengths, along with a few areas that need attention (including our facilities and student and faculty diversity). URPL alumni participated in focus groups to help us prepare for the process, and several of you met with the accreditation team that visited Madison in February. Alumni enthusiasm about the program came through loud and clear to the visitors.

URPL is positioned for more good things to come. We were successful in filling a new tenure-track assistant professor

position in partnership with Cooperative Extension's Local Government Center. We are very excited to welcome Yunji Kim to the department in January. Dr. Kim will focus on applied local government and public sector financial planning issues with an emphasis on community wellbeing. We also obtained a UW grant to make improvements to the building this summer, with new computers for our lab (former library) and a makeover of the main classroom.

Finally, URPL is continuing discussions with UW-Madison's Department of Landscape Architecture about creating a new joint department focused on a breadth of policy, planning, and design issues associated with cities, regions, and natural environments. We see strong synergy with LA related to sustainability, built environment, public health, environmental restoration and protection, community development, and a host of other important planning topics. We are interested in your thoughts about this potential new direction, and we will be soliciting your input and comments in the months ahead. Of course, you can always feel free to contact me (or any other faculty and staff) to share ideas or just to say hello.

We hope you are doing well and finding time to enjoy the summer.

Ken Genskow Urban and Reginonal Planning Chair and Associate Professor kgenskow@wisc.edu

# Thank you

Our department and our students thrive because of the generosity and continued support from our donors and supporters. We sincerely thank all those who recently contributed.

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# **Wisconsin Student Planning Association News**

Greetings, All.

This school year wrapped up with saying goodbye to 14 URPL graduates. WSPA hosted a ceremony on Sunday, May 15, to honor these new alums. We wish them lots of luck and success in their future careers!

Just because summer is upon us, that doesn't mean that we students have stopped working. Rising second-year students are spending the summer interning with a variety of organizations around Madison, and a couple of students pursued out-of-state opportunities. The professional experiences will most certainly provide valuable real-world opportunities for application of planning coursework. The upcoming fall workshop is sure to provide another opportunity for second-year students to hone their skills while working with the City of Monona and URPL alumna Sonja Reichertz (MS '13) through part of the inaugural UniverCity Alliance

program.

Looking ahead to the fall semester, members of WSPA are considering planning a weekend field trip to interact with planners in a nearby city and are brainstorming ideas for new events to host. We are also very eager to welcome the next cohort of URPL students!

With kind regards, Ruanda McFerren WSPA Chair 2016-17

# Graduation

On May 15, 2016, the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, The Wisconsin Student Planning Association (WSPA), and the Alumni Relations Council (ARC) celebrated the accomplishments of our 2016 graduates at a ceremony held in the University Club. WSPA organized the event with support from URPL and ARC. We recognize the following graduates who have earned a master of science in urban and regional planning:

# **FALL 2015:**

- Riley Balikian
- Haopu Rao
- Xiaoting Yang

### **SPRING 2016:**

- Charles Androsky
- Natalie Cotter
- William Ross Daniels
- Asma Easa
- Daniel Handel
- Abigail Jackson
- Yuchen Jia
- Cynthia Novak-Krebs
- Sunghee Moon
- Beichen Tian
- Rachel Weil

# **SUMMER 2016 (ANTICIPATED):**

- Kangni Jiang
- Matthew Sorensen

Several of our graduates have particularly distinguished themselves as the recipients of the following awards:

2015–16 MS Professional Project Forum Award for Best Poster

This award recognizes a student who, in the view of a jury of professional planners, created the best poster at the Forum. Jurors rated the content, overall design, visual appeal, use of visual elements, and creativity. Awarded to Natalie Cotter, for her poster "What Local Governments can do to Promote Local Food Production: A Look into Beginning Farmer Access to Land."

Jack R. Huddleston Award for the Best Professional Project

The award recognizes a student who, in the view of the faculty and staff, produced the most outstanding student professional project of the year—both in terms of the written report and the public presentation. This year's recipient was Phil Rynish for his project "Hazard Mitigation in a Changing Climate: The Dane County Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan."

2015–16 Jessica Bullen Community Service Award

This award, given to graduate Abby Jackson in honor of former URPL student Jessica Bullen, recognizes community service conducted by a graduating planning student during their time at URPL.

2015–16 AICP Outstanding Student Award

The AICP Outstanding Student Award recognizes a student who has excelled in his or her academic pursuits while completing an MS degree. This recognition includes a cash award generously funded by the Wisconsin chapter of the American Planning Association. This year's AICP Outstanding Student Award was given to Rachel Weil.

In addition to our awards for student performance, we invited four students to give formal oral presentations of their projects at the Forum: Natalie Cotter, Beichen Tian, Asma Easa, and Phil Rynish. Congratulations to all our outstanding planning graduates!



# **Faculty News**

Emeritus professors Stephen Born and Jack Huddleston visited with Denise Church (MS '84)—former New Zealand secretary of the Ministry of Environment, and current chair of the New Zealand Institute of Environmental Science and Research—when she was in Madison this spring.



Led by Professor Jim LaGro, student teams in URPL 601 (Site Planning) produced precedent studies and recommendations for the sustainable redevelopment of key properties managed by the Dane County Regional Airport. Final presentations were made in May to leaders from the Airport Commission and the Dane County Planning Department.

Professor Harvey M. Jacobs began the year with several weeks in the The Netherlands. In January he gave invited lectures in Nijmegen at HAN (Hogeschool van Arnhem en Nijmegen) Civil Society Lab, and to the Department of Political Science, Radboud University; the latter was on the American Tea Party phenomenon. He also taught a short course in Rotterdam at the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies at Erasmus University, co-sponsored by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, and he gave a program-wide lecture for all the students in the master's program.

In February Harvey attended the annual meeting of the international Association on Planning, Law, and Property Rights, in Bern, Switzerland, where he delivered two talks: "Property Rights Advocacy in Western Europe: The Ambiguous Role of Pro-Market Think Tanks," and "Radical Property for Radical Environmental Conditions? Western Property's Functionality for Sustainability and Equity." He was also asked to serve on a plenary roundtable on national planning systems, speaking on planning in the U.S.

In May Harvey was an invited participant in a multinational workshop/conference held at the midpoint of a three-year research project organized by SupAgro, Montpellier, France. The project's conceptual frame draws from his 1989 article "Social Equity in Agricultural Land Protection" (Landscape and Urban Planning, 17, 1: 21–33). As part of his invitation he gave a keynote lecture reflecting on and updating his 1989 article.

In June Harvey traveled to Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands, where he served as the convener and lead examiner for a PhD oral defense in planning.

Among his recent publications, Harvey is author of a lead chapter in in Public Interests, Private Rights: Law and Planning Policy in Canada (A. Smit and M. Valiante, eds. Vancouver, BC: University of British Columbia Press, 2016), "Private Property in Historical and Global Context and Its Lessons for Planning."Together with his Nelson Institute doctoral student, James Krueger, he is coauthor of an article, "Responsible Localism, Reactionary Localism: Lessons on Land Use Controls and Sustainability from the Global South to the Global North," for the open access journal The Public Sector, published by the Technical University of Vienna, Austria.

# Professor Dave Marcouiller has

returned from a productive sabbatical and research leave in which he served as a visiting scholar at both Huazhong Agricultural University (HZAU) in Wuhan, China, and the State University of Western Paraná (Unioeste) in Toledo, Brasil. This fall he will be teaching Methods of Planning Analysis and continuing his statewide Extension

programming in tourism planning, rural development, and resource economics. Recently, Dr. Hyun Kim (PhD '15) and Dave published manuscripts on rural disaster planning in Society and Natural Resources and the Annals of Regional Science while others remain in-review with Land Use Policy, the Journal of Environmental Planning and Management, and Rural Studies. In early July the two will present this research to colleagues at the 4th World Planning Schools Congress in Rio de Janiero.

# **Professor Alfonso Morales was**

promoted to Professor. He is on the National Advisory Committee for the Future of Latinos (organized by the American Bar Foundation) and attended the first regional roundtable in Chicago. He also presented at the APA meetings in Phoenix on his work as part of an expert panel convened by USDA on the measurement of local and regional food systems. His recent publications include: "Fining the Hand that Feeds You: Overcoming Unfair Fines for Vendors in New York City" and "Further Analysis of Factors Influencing Street Vendor Default-in-Payment" (Cityscape, 18, 1: 95–113).

Professor Brian Ohm published "Some Modern Day Musings on the Police Power" in the *Urban Lawyer* (47, 4: 625–663) exploring the constantly evolving and often misunderstood concept of the state and local government's police power.

Brian is also assisting the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association in the preparation of a joint friend-of-the-court (amicus) brief that will be filed with the American Planning Association in the case Murr v. State of Wisconsin that is currently pending before the United States Supreme Court. The case is a potentially significant regulatory-takings case dealing with the parcel-as-a-whole doctrine under the Penn Central case. The court will decide the case during its next term.

In April, he was invited to participate in the Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) "Zoning 101" webinar, spon-

sored by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, responding to an increasing number of requests from towns in Wisconsin with no zoning that are interested in adopting a zoning ordinance for the first time. Other presenters in the webinar were Mike Koles (MS '98), executive director of the Wisconsin Towns Association, and Philip Freeburg from the UWEX Local Government Center. A recorded version of the webinar is available on the DATCP website.

# **Alumni Updates**

Marcel Acosta (MS '86), executive director of the federal government's National Capital Planning Commission, engaged in a Skype discussion from Washington, D.C., with URPL students on April 29. He provided early career advice for aspiring planners.

Gary "Chris" Christopherson (MS '74) continues his work on Thrive! public policy to help build a thriving future for all. In 2015-16, he endowed the Thrive! Scholarship through the UW Department of Political Science to support students wanting to build a better and thriving future, and he authored four public-policy books:

- Thrive! Endeavor—All Thrive Forever
- Thrive!—All Thrive Forever (What will you do? The Game. The Challenge)
- The Thrive! Philosophy—All Thrive Forever, and
- Behavior Effectiveness Model (BEM)—Building Thriving Future Using BEM

and two fiction books:

- The Thrive! Endeavor—Second Book in The Thrive! Series (a science fiction
- T!rrific [terrific]—What Will You Do to Thrive? (an illustrated children's

He operates eight websites and two blogs accessible at ThrivingFuture.org. He creates GChris Sculpture and donates all proceeds to the Thrive! Scholarship Fund.

Wisconsin's smallest county is in good hands with Maria Holl (MS'13) in

charge of the Land Management Department. Due to the size of of the staff (two people) and numerous job titles, URPL skills and concepts come in handy as Maria and her coworker Jacki juggle managing the county's planning, zoning, GIS, emergency management, environmental health, economic development, tourism, and recycling programs. "As a rural county, we have been trying to focus on promoting economic development. The Department of Tourism indicates we had the 6th highest rate of growth for tourism in 2015, so we think our efforts are gaining momentum. We recently published the first edition of the Pepin County Visitor's Guide and will be featured in the Discover Wisconsin in 2017. We encourage everyone to visit our idyllic countryside and spend a weekend at Lake Pepin." On the planning side of things, Pepin County is in the process of updating its Hazard Mitigation and Comprehensive Land Use Plans. In her spare time, Maria has been planning a wedding and gardening.

Ed Jepson (PhD '99) taught URPL's online environmental planning course during summer 2016, and also donated a copy of his co-authored book Fundamentals of Plan Making: Methods and Techniques to the URPL library.

Andrew Lewis (MS '80) retired in July 2015 after 32 years of working for UW-Extension.

Dana Lucero (MS '02) won the 2015 USA Project of the Year award from the International Association of Public Participation for her work on a bus rapid-transit project in Portland, Oregon. She has led public engagement and deliberative decision-making for Metro, the Portland area regional government, since 2008.

Sonja Reichertz (MS '13) is currently the city planner and economic development director at the City of Monona. She earned the AICP certification in May 2015. She also acted as an URPL adjunct, teaching URPL 590 (pre-workshop) in the spring 2016 semester.

Madison Mayor Paul Soglin has appointed Heather Stouder (MS '04) —a member of the city of Madison's Planning Division team since 2008 as the division's new director.

October 1 will mark a year since Cynthia Sweet (MS'14) moved to Morgantown, West Virginia, and launched the Corporate Relations Office for West Virginia University, where she now serves as director. She reports her MS from URPL made this position possible.

# Student Updates

Second-year MS student Samuel Wessel is interning full-time this summer for City of Fitchburg Planning and Zoning. He is also doing work for Civi Tek Consulting/ZoningHub in Lake Mills, Wisconsin, writing content for blogs/wordpress, as well as proofreading and editing ordinances and codes for different municipalities. He is also a representative on the APA Wisconsin chapter, southwest-region committee, and was just elected to be the APA liaison for WSPA.

# **URPL Visitor**

Professor Ram Singh of the Delhi, India, School of Economics visited URPL in late March and early April under the sponsorship of Professor Harvey M. Jacobs. He lectured in Revel Sims' gentrification class on private-public partnerships, and he delivered an open lecture titled "Eminent Domain to Acquire Private Properties: U.S.-India Comparison." Professor Singh undertakes research on property rights and law and economics, and has offered extensive public commentary on the proposed changes to the Indian national law on eminent domain currently under consideration. His visit was cosponsored by the Center for South Asia, Global Legal Studies, The Land Tenure Center of the Nelson Institute, and the University Lectures Committee.

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