Promoting Shared Prosperity in U.S. Cities

Penn IUR co-sponsored the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia’s sixth biennial conference on older industrial cities. Reinventing Older Communities: Bridging Growth and Opportunity, held May 12-14 at Loews Philadelphia Hotel, focused on the ways older communities are reinventing themselves. More than 450 people attended the event, including planners, elected officials, academics, bankers, community developers, foundation leaders, and students. Other co-sponsors included The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Fund for Our Economic Future, Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, and the Federal Reserve Banks of Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Richmond, and St. Louis.

Susan Wachter, Penn IUR Co-Director, and Lei Ding, Community Development Economic Advisor at Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, are editing a publication that will include much of the research presented at the conference. The editors anticipate publication in 2015.

In opening the conference, Charles Plosser, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, invoked Wayne Gretzky in suggesting that cities need to “skate to where the puck will be, not where it’s been.” For older communities this means using emerging trends to reinvent the city while avoiding policies that simply rebuild what has been. This theme threaded throughout the conference as presenters highlighted emerging

(continued on p. 18)
Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014
PENN IUR PUBLIC INTEREST EVENT
BLACK POWER TV
HAROLD PRINCE THEATRE, ANNENBERG CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS | 7:00 PM

SEPTEMBER 19, 2014
PENN IUR MUSA LUNCH SPEAKER SERIES
GIS AND SPATIAL DATA ANALYSIS
MEYERSON HALL, PENN IUR CONFERENCE ROOM, G12 | 12:30 PM-2:00 PM
Please join us for Penn IUR’s first MUSA lunch session of the 2014-2015 academic year. Daniel McGlone (MUSA ’12), GIS Analyst at Azavea, will discuss his work with the Philadelphia-based spatial analysis and software development firm. The session is free and open to the public; lunch will be served. Registration required.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2014
THE WAR ON POVERTY AT 50: ITS HISTORY AND LEGACY
AMADO RECITAL HALL, IRVINE AUDITORIUM | 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Please join the Penn Social Science & Policy Forum and other Penn partners for a celebration of the work of Penn historian Michael Katz. “The War on Poverty at 50: Its History and Legacy,” will bring together leading scholars and policy analysts to examine the key questions Katz has raised in his work. For full details visit https://www.sas.upenn.edu/ssp/event/2014/war-poverty-50-its-history-and-legacy-conference-o.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2014
SUSTAINABLE, EQUITABLE, URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS
MEYERSON HALL, LOWER GALLERY | 5:30 PM-7:00 PM
Building on Penn IUR’s 2013 groundbreaking conference, Feeding Cities, practitioners and scholars explore emerging trends and innovations in urban food security. This event is co-sponsored by Penn’s Urban Health Lab and Initiative for Global Environmental Leadership (IGEL). This event is free and open to the public. Registration is required.

OCTOBER 2, 2014
PENN IUR PUBLIC INTEREST EVENT
URBAN BOOK TALK: CAPTURED BY THE CITY
MEYERSON HALL, ROOM B-4 | 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Please join Penn IUR for a panel discussion led by Blagovesta M. Mamchedjikova, editor of Captured by the City: Perspectives in Urban Culture Studies (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013). Panelists include: Michael M. Samuelian, Vice President, Related Companies; Josef Luciano, film instructor, City University of New York; Jake Suddeth, Director of Research, CTC (City Town Country) Research; and Anne Rivers, Senior Vice President and Director of Brand Strategy, BAV Consulting.

OCTOBER 12 – 14, 2014
URBAN HISTORY ASSOCIATION SEVENTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE
METROPOLITICS
Along with other Penn and external partners, Penn IUR is co-sponsoring this conference hosted by Thomas Sugrue, President of the Urban History Association, Penn’s David Boies Professor of History and Sociology, and Director of the Penn’s Social Science and Policy Forum. The conference will focus on metropolitics.

OCTOBER 17, 2014
PENN IUR MUSA LUNCH SPEAKER SERIES
GIS AND COMMUNITY/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
MEYERSON HALL, PENN IUR CONFERENCE ROOM, G12 | 12:30 PM-2:00 PM
Katie Nelson, Associate Director of Data and Product Development of PolicyMap, and Scott Haag, Research Associate of the Policy Solutions Team, of The Reinvestment Fund (TRF) will discuss their work with the Philadelphia-based Community Development Finance Institution (CDFI), including the use of PolicyMap. The session is free and open to the public; lunch will be served. Registration required.

OCTOBER 20, 2014
PENN IUR PUBLIC INTEREST EVENT
URBAN BOOK TALK: THE ACCIDENTAL PLAYGROUND
PENN BOOKSTORE, 3601 WALNUT STREET | 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
Please join us for a discussion with Daniel Campo, Associate Professor in the School of Architecture and Planning at Morgan State University in Baltimore and former planner for the New York City Department of City Planning. Campo will elaborate on his recent book, The Accidental Playground: Brooklyn Waterfront Narratives of the Undesigned and Unplanned (Fordham University Press, 2013). Co-sponsored by Penn Design’s Department of City and Regional Planning. Registration required.

NOVEMBER 11, 2014
PENN IUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT
URBAN FISCAL STABILITY AND PUBLIC PENSIONS: SUSTAINABILITY GOING FORWARD
VAN PELT LIBRARY, 6TH FLOOR PAVILION | 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Featuring a keynote address from Joshua D. Rauh, Professor of Finance, Stanford Graduate School of Business, leading researchers and practitioners will address the complex fiscal issues facing cities. Co-sponsored by Next City and made possible with support from Melanie and Lawrence C. Nussdorf.

NOVEMBER 19, 2014
PENN COMMUNITY EVENT
PENN GIS DAY
MEYERSON HALL, LOWER GALLERY | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Penn GIS Day focuses on real-world applications and innovations stemming from uses of GIS technology. The event is co-hosted by the Master of Urban Spatial Analytics program, the Cartographic Modeling Lab, Penn Libraries, and the Wharton GIS Lab. Registration required.

DECEMBER 3, 2014
PENN IUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT
URBAN WOMEN’S HEALTH IN THE UNITED NATION’S POST-2015 AGENDA
HOUSTON HALL, BEN FRANKLIN ROOM | 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Penn IUR and the Center for Global Women’s Health at the Penn School of Nursing host this expert roundtable to examine the proposed targets and indicators for urban women’s health and well-being for the upcoming Framework for the UN’s Post-2015 Agenda (Sustainable Development Goals).
1. You are an anthropologist, filmmaker, and author. How did you become interested in these fields? Did you know early in your career that you would be able to combine your interests in scholarly research and in filmmaking?

I always tell people that I was brainwashed into becoming an academic. That’s a joke, of course, but it is true that I never planned on being a professor. I went to Howard University to become a filmmaker. At the time, Howard had just about all the film equipment that the more famous film schools used. And this was the last moment when the word “film” wasn’t just a metaphor. Even as undergrads, we were shooting with 16mm film cameras, changing film stock in black bags, and sending our footage off to labs for processing. I loved filmmaking, and I was probably going to head to L.A. after I graduated. But then I got picked to take part in a workshop called Grad-Prep and then in the McNair Scholars Program, and they flew in all of these successful academics to tell us how fulfilling a “life of the mind” could be. And they convinced me. But I still wanted to make films. So, I did some research and decided that the discipline of anthropology provided me with the best chance to have my cake and eat it, too. There has been a long history of filmmaking into their methodological arsenal. The more I learned about the group, the more I was blown away by the extent to which their narrative helps to complicate so many of the stories we think we know about African American history. They have also evolved a very sophisticated commitment to health literacy, and they mandate veganism for all of their members. In fact, they are probably best known for their international chain of vegan soul food restaurants. They mandate veganism for all of their members.


I think that the African Hebrew Israelites of Jerusalem represent one of the most interesting stories in American history and politics, but it is a story that almost nobody knows. The more I studied this group of African Americans that left Chicago in the 1960s, first for Liberia and then for the modern state of Israel, where they’ve been since 1969, the more I came to see it as an endgame in and of itself and not merely as a potential means to another end: creating a safe space for as many people as possible to feel like they have a legitimate/recognized role in the conversation. Cora and I thought that we’d use our essays in Impolite Conversations (some personal, some polemical) to talk about things we knew would be unpopular (and even somewhat controversial and embarrassing), but we wanted to do that with the “good faith” goal of modeling a form of discursive honesty that we hoped could help to reboot popular discussions and debates about the future of American society.

3. You have another book out this year, Impolite Conversations: On Race, Politics, Sex, Money, and Religion (Atria, 2014), co-authored with journalist Cora Daniels. In alternating chapters, you and Daniels hold a candid dialogue on topics that are not often discussed frankly in public. Why did you decide to write this book? Why now?

The book is meant to be a kind of soft provocation, even a sort of Swiftian spoof on the very notion of “public dialogues.” The book is a short commentary on the devolving nature of public discourse today. Some of that devolution is a function of the downside of political correctness, which I talked about in my book Racial Paranoia. Political Correctness is least effective, I think, when it is imagined as an endgame in and of itself and not merely as a potential means to another end: creating a safe space for as many people as possible to feel like they have a legitimate/recognized role in the conversation. Cora and I both thought that we’d use our essays in Impolite Conversations (some personal, some polemical) to talk about things we knew would be unpopular (and even somewhat controversial and embarrassing), but we wanted to do that with the “good faith” goal of modeling a form of discursive honesty that we hoped could help to reboot popular discussions and debates about the future of American society.

4. You came to Penn in 2006 as the university’s first “Penn Integrates Knowledge (PIK) University Professor,” a program developed to recruit leading professors whose scholarship and teaching overlaps disciplines. How has Penn’s focus on integrating knowledge across disciplines affected your teaching and research?

(Continued on p. 19)
Penn IUR held its 10th Annual Urban Leadership Forum on March 27, presenting awards to Sister Mary Scullion and Joan Dawson McConnon, co-founders of Project HOME, and to Martin O’Malley, Governor of Maryland. The theme of this year’s event was “Sustainable Urbanization: Place Matters.”

After a welcome from Penn IUR Advisory Board Chair Egbert Perry, Penn IUR Faculty Fellow Mark Allan Hughes, Professor of Practice in the Department of City and Regional Planning in Penn School of Design, introduced the Project HOME co-founders, noting that their project offers something more than just regular fundraising—by making inroads against urban homelessness, it bestows dignity upon donors and clients alike. In accepting the award, Scullion highlighted the importance of collaboration between academics and practitioners in the fight against homelessness. She urged audience members to “spread the message far and wide” since, she said, awareness is the first step towards a solution to homelessness. McConnon discussed Project HOME’s substantial progress throughout Philadelphia, mentioning new residential spaces in Fairmount in addition to many more projects to come, including work that will enhance public access to healthcare and quality education.

Penn IUR Advisory Board Member Manny Diaz, former Mayor of Miami, presented the Urban Leadership Award (ULA) to Governor Martin O’Malley, lauding O’Malley for his leadership and accomplishments. In receiving his award, Governor O’Malley offered his take on leadership: “Hope drives belief. Belief drives action. Action drives results,” he said. Governor O’Malley highlighted two programs in his comments that exemplify this vision of actionable government: the 311 program and restoration efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. In his remarks, he highlighted the importance of data-driven decision-making to inform short-term and long-run planning.

Penn IUR has recognized innovators in urban affairs through the ULA since 2005, presenting the honor annually in recognition of outstanding work in building a better, more sustainable future for all. Past recipients include: Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT and former Mayor of Barcelona, Spain; Yael Lehmann, Executive Director of The Food Trust; Ridwan Kamil, Founder and Principal of Urbane Indonesia; Derek R.B. Douglas, Vice President for Civic Engagement, University of Chicago and former Special Assistant to President Barack Obama, White House Domestic Policy Council; Paul Levy, President and CEO, Philadelphia’s Center City District; Lily Yeh, Global Artist and Founder, Barefoot Artists; Raphael Bostic, Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Jane Golden, Executive Director, City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program; Shirley Franklin, Mayor of the City of Atlanta, Georgia; Parris Glendening, President, Smart Growth Leadership Institute, and former Governor of Maryland; Bruce Katz, Vice President and Founding Director of the Metropolitan Policy Program, The Brookings Institution; William Hudnut III, Senior Fellow Emeritus, Urban Land Institute, and former Mayor of Indianapolis, Indiana; Joseph P. Riley Jr., Mayor of the City of Charleston, South Carolina; and Donna Shalala, President of the University of Miami and former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. A video of the 2014 event can be found here: http://penniur.upenn.edu/events/penn-iur-10th-annual-urban-leadership-forum.
Penn IUR Helps Shape UN’s Urban Efforts

Penn IUR Co-Director Eugénie Birch was elected Chair of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme’s (UN-Habitat’s) World Urban Campaign (WUC), a global coalition of public, private, and civil society partners acting to promote sustainable urbanization. Birch was elected Chair of the WUC at UN-Habitat’s 7th World Urban Forum (WUF7), the world’s premier conference on cities, held in Medellín, Colombia April 5-11, where thousands of conference attendees also learned about Penn IUR activities at Penn IUR’s exhibit booth. Previously, Birch served as Co-Chair of the WUC for four years. Birch was elected to her new role for a two-year term ending in 2016. Under Birch’s leadership, the WUC will help to shape the WUF7’s Post-2015 Development Agenda, a conceptual framework that will guide UN-Habitat and its partners in addressing the critical interplay of equity, inclusive growth, and sustainable urban development while also addressing human rights, inequality, and gender disparities. Birch will also steer the WUC as it helps prepare for the 3rd UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016, which aims to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urban development.

Penn IUR mounted an exhibit at WUF7 to present the work of the Institute and its Faculty Fellows and Scholars, and to host talks by Institute-affiliated researchers and partners. Penn IUR staff discussed with visitors current research, recent publications in Penn IUR and University of Pennsylvania Press’s The City in the 21st Century book series, and the work of Penn IUR Faculty Fellows and Scholars. The WUF exhibit hall was open to all conference attendees and the public.

The World Urban Forum (WUF) is organized by UN-Habitat, a UN agency that promotes socially and environmentally sustainable cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. WUF is held every two years to bring together leaders from government, NGOs, research, and the private sector to help solve problems of urban sustainability. The WUC was launched in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2010, at UN-Habitat’s 5th World Urban Forum.

MUSA Earth Day Event: Urban Strategies and Innovations for a Sustainable Planet

Penn IUR celebrated Earth Day with the annual MUSA Earth Day event held on April 22 at the Penn School of Design. The event brought together a panel of industry professionals and civic leaders to discuss the roles that cities, government, and technology play in addressing environmental issues in the twenty-first century. Penn IUR Co-Director Susan Wachter introduced Shawn Garvin, EPA Regional Administrator, who provided welcoming comments highlighting the role of Earth Day in shaping a culture of sustainability and community engagement. John Landis, Crossways Professor of City and Regional Planning in the Penn School of Design, introduced and moderated the guest panel.

Robert Cheetham, President and CEO of the Philadelphia-based spatial analysis and software development firm Azavea, presented on the open data movement, advances in open source development, applications in data science, and improvements in user-interface/user-experience design. He explained that data is becoming more accessible to the public and is increasingly being used to solve problems of environmental concern by informing conservation efforts, the design of educational tools, and natural resource management and planning. Colin Enssle, Senior Manager of GE Water & Process Technologies, described his work with industry to promote responsible use and reuse of water, specifically in the energy production industry where technology and engineering have helped to improve efficiency in production while minimizing water consumption and protecting water quality. He emphasized the importance of water policy and pricing in incentivizing water conservation and reuse. Sara Mazano-Díaz, U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) Regional Administrator, discussed GSA’s role in reducing the federal government’s negative environmental impacts, reviewing the services that GSA provides as well as its innovative workplace strategies to reduce the government’s consumption of energy and water. Julie Ulrich, Urban Strategies and Watershed Coordinator at The Nature Conservancy, described the use of green infrastructure and new technologies that can help analyze changes in and impacts on natural resources. She noted that, since many watersheds are surrounded by highly urbanized areas, considering cities and nature together is critical. Philadelphia’s innovative “Green City, Clean Waters” initiative, one of the largest plans to incorporate green infrastructure into a city’s water system, takes this approach.

Following the speaker presentations, Landis invited the speakers to join in a question and answer session. Discussion about the strategies for reducing negative environmental impacts led panelists to suggest expansion of partnerships between public, private, and nonprofit sectors; greater support for infrastructure funding; and increased incentives for environmental protection. When asked what skills and abilities they would advise students to develop, panelists suggested data analysis and interdisciplinary thinking. Watch a video of the event here: http://penniur.upenn.edu/events/musa-earth-day-lecture-mapping-our-global-future.
Penn IUR Book Launch: Revitalizing American Cities

To launch the release of Revitalizing American Cities, edited by Susan Wachter and Kimberly Zeuli, Penn IUR welcomed on January 29 roughly 150 people to a panel discussion featuring the book’s editors and several contributors. The volume—a new release in Penn IUR and University of Pennsylvania Press’s The City in the 21st Century book series—explores the historical, regional, and political factors that have allowed industrial cities to regain their footing in a changing economy. The event was co-sponsored by University of Pennsylvania Press and the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia.

Panelists included Paul Brophy, Principal at Brophy of Philadelphia; Steven Cochrane, Managing Director of Moody’s Analytics; Catherine Tumber, Visiting Scholar at Northeastern University’s School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs; Kimberly Zeuli, Senior Vice President and Director of Research and Advisory Services, Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC); and Eugénie Birch and Susan Wachter, Co-Directors of Penn IUR and editors of The City in the 21st Century series. Theresa Singleton, Vice President of Community Development Studies and Education at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, also took part in the book launch, setting the stage with a discussion of the continuing need to connect research and practice in economic development, particularly with regard to small- and mid-sized cities.

Susan Wachter launched the discussion that followed by pointing to successful revitalization of smaller cities, using Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, as an example. Industrial decline led the once-dominant Bethlehem Steel to file for bankruptcy in 2001—but, she noted, today Bethlehem is one of the two fastest-growing cities in Pennsylvania. Zeuli pointed to the divergent paths of two smaller cities in North Carolina, Concord and Eden, where textile mills shuttered overnight and left the towns reeling; she identified two key factors, leadership and location, that led Concord to revitalize faster than Eden. Leaders in Concord acted much more quickly and the city was able to leverage certain competitive advantages unavailable to Eden, such as the presence of a local airport, a popular NASCAR racetrack, and proximity to Charlotte.

More than one panelist noted that cities that have successfully revitalized often benefit from the presence of anchor institutions. In small cities, anchor institutions can tailor strategies to local needs to great effect, Birch said. This is particularly true for community colleges and workforce training, according to Cochrane.

Brophy argued that what he calls “middle neighborhoods”—those that are neither impoverished nor prosperous—are also key to revitalization efforts and warrant more attention from policymakers. According to his research, middle neighborhoods represent a large share of cities’ property values: 32 percent in Baltimore, 44 percent in Pittsburgh, and 51 percent in Newark, NJ. These communities, which face a risk of decline if cities do not target them for investment, are critical to regional economic growth and offer stability and value in small- and medium-sized cities.

Tumber noted that small cities often have the competitive advantage of relatively low land rents, long an advantage of the suburbs. Indeed, as Cochrane pointed out, for decades the prevailing trend was suburban growth and urban decline. However, he contrasted this with current trends that show central cities have since 2009 outpaced the suburbs in population growth and service sector job growth. According to Cochrane, many cities have also seen growth in manufacturing jobs, and the migration of jobs from the Rustbelt to the Sunbelt seems to have subsided. The key question is how small- and mid-sized cities can best take advantage of the confluence of these trends.

Today, Zeuli said, people commonly decide where they want to live and then find work in that locale, a reversal from previous decades; many tech and service jobs, in particular, are indistinguishable regardless of where they are located. Nonetheless, stressed Paul Brophy, each city must craft its own future, tailored to its own circumstances and strengths. Each city’s economy is unique and demands its own mix of ingredients for revitalization.

The panel discussion closed with a question and answer session with a standing-room-only audience, reflecting the growing interest in the nation’s small- and mid-sized cities. Revitalizing American Cities, which emerged from the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia’s “Reinventing Older Communities: Building Resilient Cities” conference in 2012, is the latest contribution to a small but growing body of research on the obstacles and demands its own mix of ingredients for revitalization.

The panel discussion closed with a question and answer session with a standing-room-only audience, reflecting the growing interest in the nation’s small- and mid-sized cities. Revitalizing American Cities, which emerged from the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia’s “Reinventing Older Communities: Building Resilient Cities” conference in 2012, is the latest contribution to a small but growing body of research on the obstacles and opportunities these cities face. Watch a video of the event here: http://penniur.upenn.edu/events/penn-iur-urban-book-talk-revitalizing-american-cities.

REVITALIZING CITIES PANEL: From left: Catherine Tumber, Steve Cochrane, Paul Brophy, Kimberly Zeuli, and Susan Wachter.
Penn iUR 10th Anniversary Special Event

Future of Urbanization: What Can We Learn from Asian Cities?

As part of Penn iUR’s 10th anniversary event series, on March 27 four expert panelists joined a moderated discussion examining the challenges and opportunities of urban life in Asia and identifying lessons for cities around the globe. The event’s speakers included Stefan Al, Associate Professor of Urban Design in the Department of City and Regional Planning in Penn School of Design; Abha Joshi-Ghani, Director of Knowledge and Learning at The World Bank Institute; Kyung-Hwan Kim, President of the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS) and Professor in the School of Economics at Sogang University; Bimal Patel, President of Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology University (CEPT University) Ahmedabad, India; and Anthony Yeh, Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Hong Kong. Penn iUR Co-Director Susan Wachter moderated.

The panelists examined the challenges and opportunities of urban life in Asia and what lessons they provide globally. Al noted positive trends in China’s rapid development, such as a lack of slums in cities like Shenzhen and the construction of hundreds of miles of high-speed rail. He commented on the negative light in which the media casts Asia—particularly China—likening this portrayal to “a post-apocalyptic future.” He suggested that, in fact, China should be looked at as an engine of “immense economic growth” on the continent. Yeh highlighted Hong Kong’s successes and failures as a highly dense city. He noted that, while we can learn a great deal from China’s urbanization strategies, we must also heed their mistakes, particularly in regard to sustainable practices.

Joshi-Ghani took an optimistic viewpoint, emphasizing that Chinese urbanization “has lifted 500 million people out of poverty.” Bimal Patel commented on the fact that many Indian cities face significant urban challenges but “are going through an epic transformation.” Both Patel and Joshi-Ghani expressed the view that India still has much to learn about city building; with the growth of large slums with poor access to potable water, sanitation, and transportation, cities in India face many development hurdles. They both noted, however, that those cities, having arrived relatively recently on the development scene, have the opportunity to avoid the mistakes that cities in the Global North made in the last two centuries. Video of the event is available here: http://penniur.upenn.edu/events/the-future-of-urbanization-what-can-we-learn-from-asian-cities.

Penn iUR in Fall 2014

Throughout the year, Penn iUR is hosting special events to celebrate its 10th anniversary and the many individuals and institutions that have helped shape Penn iUR and its signature interdisciplinary programs and publications over the last decade. For more information and to RSVP for these events and others, please visit penniur.upenn.edu.

Sustainable, Equitable, Urban Food Systems

09.30.14
10th Anniversary Event

Building on Penn iUR’s 2013 groundbreaking conference, Feeding Cities, practitioners and scholars explore emerging trends and innovations in urban food security. This event is part of Penn iUR’s series of special 10th anniversary events.

Co-sponsored by Penn’s Urban Health Lab and Initiative for Global Environmental Leadership (IGEL)

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is required.
The Future of the U.S. Housing Finance System

On April 16, Penn iUR sponsored a panel to discuss calls for restructuring the U.S. housing finance system. During an important moment in the national debate over the future of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, this expert roundtable brought together leading voices in the housing finance reform debate. The event was co-sponsored by the Wharton Public Policy Initiative and made possible by funding from the Ford Foundation.

Moody’s Analytics’ Chief Economist Mark Zandi, who provided the keynote address, began the event by reviewing the goals and prospects of current reform proposals; he discussed provisions for affordable housing, promotion of home ownership, and the role of the thirty-year fixed-rate mortgage. Following his presentation, a panel of experts weighed the pros and cons of the Johnson-Crapo Bill, which would wind down Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and create the Federal Mortgage Insurance Company (FMIC). At a roundtable discussion that followed, Joseph Tracy, Executive Vice President and Senior Advisor to the President, Federal Reserve Bank of New York presented on an alternative GSE reform proposal following a utility approach. Panelists included Peter Carroll, Senior Vice President of Capital Markets, Wells Fargo; Larry Cordell, Vice President, RADAR Group, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia; Lisa Davis, Program Officer, Ford Foundation; Tom Deutsch, Executive Director, American Securitization Forum; John Griffith, Senior Analyst, Enterprise Community Partners Inc.; Patrick Lawler, Chief Economist, FHFA; Janneke Ratcliffe, Executive Director, UNC Center for Community Capital, UNC at Chapel Hill; Ellen Seidman, Senior Fellow, Urban Institute; Ted Tozer, President, Ginnie Mae; Susan Wachter, Legislative and Policy Advocacy, NCRC; Mark Zandi, Chief Economist, Moody’s Analytics; and Barry Zogas, Director of Housing Policy, Consumer Federation of America.

Building Users Key to Energy Savings

Penn iUR closed out its third year with the Consortium for Building Energy Innovation (CBEI, formerly the Energy Efficient Buildings Hub (EEB Hub)) with an event promoting energy savings in the built environment through empowerment of building occupants. On January 14, “Occupant-led Energy Efficiency” convened representatives from eight energy-focused companies, CBEI researchers, and an owner of a fleet of buildings to discuss methods and technologies for giving building users more control of their buildings’ energy usage. Approximately sixty in-person and online attendees participated.

Occupant decisions strongly affect how much energy buildings use. Decisions about lighting, heating, and cooling are obvious sources of influence, but plug loads (the energy used by anything plugged in) are also important: plug loads typically account for 30 percent of a building’s energy use, a figure that is expected to increase as technological advances make other building systems more energy efficient and as the number of things plugged in multiplies. The growing importance of plug loads as a component of a building’s energy usage is one example of how occupants’ decisions—in this case, about whether to leave something plugged in when not in use—play a key role in achieving the kind of energy performance that high-efficiency buildings are designed to deliver.

The CBEI, based at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, was established by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in 2011 to stimulate innovative research on methods to make the nation’s existing building stock more energy efficient. Involving fourteen partners from academia and practice, its goal is to develop market-tested pathways to achieve 50 percent energy reduction in existing commercial buildings. Penn iUR works as a CBEI partner in a university-wide team that spans many of Penn’s schools and centers.
Penn IUR Supports Up-and-Coming Urban Scholars

In Spring 2014, Penn IUR sponsored the 10th annual Undergraduate Urban Research Colloquium (UURC), which brings undergraduate scholars from around the University to study, learn, and conduct research on urban issues. This advanced research seminar for undergraduates gives each student with an interest in urban-focused research a chance to learn from and partner with a faculty mentor with expertise in the their field of interest.

The student-faculty pairs who took part in UURC in Spring 2014 are listed below.

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<td>Shahana Chattaraj, Lauder Institute, Wharton</td>
<td>Qingyong Xia, School of Arts and Sciences, Urban Studies</td>
<td>Urban Planning, Modernization and Economic Development in Post-Colonial States/Developing Countries</td>
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<td>Matthew Steinberg, Graduate School of Education, Education Policy</td>
<td>Filippo Bulgarelli, School of Arts and Sciences, Sociology</td>
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LEADERSHIP

Leading the Global Conversation on Urban Development

On February 24, Penn IUR, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, UN-Habitat’s World Urban Campaign, and Next City presented an interactive discussion with a panel of leading thinkers in urban development. The event—which took place in preparation for the U.S. delegation to the World Urban Forum 7 (WUF7), held April 5-11 in Medellín, Colombia (for more on Penn IUR’s involvement with WUF7, see page 5)—explored how research informs practical innovations in urban resilience and equity.

Panelists included Penn IUR Co-Director Eugenie Birch; Ana Marie Argüellos, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office for International and Philanthropic Innovation, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Shahana Chattaraj, former Postdoctoral Fellow, Penn’s Lauder Institute; Yamina Djacta, Officer in Charge, New York Office, UN-Habitat; Maureen George, Assistant Professor, Family and Community Health, Penn School of Nursing; David Gouverneur, Associate Professor of Practice, Landscape Architecture, Penn School of Design; Albert Han, Doctoral Candidate, City and Regional Planning, Penn School of Design; Mark Alan Hughes, Professor of Practice, City and Regional Planning, Penn School of Design; Devesh Kapur, Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of Penn’s Center for the Advanced Study of India; Neelanjan Sircar, Visiting Dissertation Research Fellow, Penn’s Center for the Advanced Study of India; Harris Steinberg, Executive Director, Penn Praxis; and Richard Voith, President and Principal, Econsult Solutions.

After introductory remarks from each panelist, Penn IUR Co-Director Susan Wachter moderated a group discussion. The two-hour dialogue culminated in an audience question-and-answer session. A video of the panel discussion can be found here: http://penniur.upenn.edu/events/research-to-practice-building-scholarship-critical-to-building-a-sustainabl.
Penn IUR Faculty Fellows News & Awards

Stefan Al, Associate Professor of Urban Design in the Department of City and Regional Planning in the School of Design, published the edited volume *Villages in the City: A Guide to South China’s Informal Settlements* (University of Hawaii Press and Hong Kong University Press, 2014). *Villages in the City* includes drawings, photographs, and essays that reveal the social life of urban villages and explore the idea of reinstating a focus on the village as a pathway to a richer, more variegated form of urbanization.

David R. Bell, Xinmei Zhang and Yangge Dai, Professor and Professor of Marketing in the Marketing Department at The Wharton School, published a new book, *Location Is (Still) Everything: The Surprising Influence of the Real World on How We Search, Shop, and Sell in the Virtual One* (New Harvest, 2014). Additionally, he and his co-authors received the First Place Award for the Productions and Operations Management Society (POMS) Applied Research Challenge for their paper “Inventory Showrooms and Customer Migration in Omni-channel Retail: The Effect of Product.”

Eugénie Birch, Penn IUR Co-Director and Lawrence C. Nussdorf Professor of Urban Research and Education and Chair of the Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning in the School of Design, presented “Developing Measurable Urban Targets” at the Urban Roundtable, sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. on May 20, and “The Rural-Urban Nexus: What Is It and Why Is It Important?” at a Technical Briefing for UN Member States, sponsored by the International Fund for Agricultural Development and Communitas on May 21. She also participated in the UN Economic and Social Council’s Sustainable Urbanization Integration Segment on May 27-29 in NYC, and presented “Regenerating Industrial Areas for City Competitiveness: From Science Parks to Innovation Districts” at the 2014 Industry Park Development Policy Symposium at National Taiwan University on July 8. Additionally, on July 10, she presented on the Sustainable Development Goals at the Korean Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS) in Seoul as the inaugural effort in the Penn IUR/KRIHS partnership. She also became an invited member of the Sustainable Cities Thematic Group of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

Dennis Culhane, Professor and Dana and Andrew Stone Chair in Social Policy in the School of Policy & Practice, spoke at a conference hosted by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Coalition for Evidence-Based Policy on July 28. The conference, “Demonstrating How Low-Cost Randomized Controlled Trials Can Drive Effective Social Spending,” explored emerging initiatives related to RCTs. Culhane spoke on the effective use of integrated data systems, highlighting their advantage as being population-based, cost-effective, longitudinal, policy-relevant and linkable across multiple agencies and organizations.

Gilles Duranton, Dean’s Chair in Real Estate Professor and Chair of the Real Estate Department at Wharton, is co-editor, with Vernon Henderson and William Strange, of the *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics, Vol. 5*, to be published by Elsevier in early 2015. The *Handbook* takes stock of developments in the field since the publication of Volume 4 ten years ago. The forthcoming volume emphasizes methodological developments in empirical work and urban issues. The *Handbook* grew from paper presented conferences at Penn on May 2-3 and in Toronto the following week. Penn IUR Faculty Fellows Joe Gyourko, Martin Bucksbaum Professor of Real Estate, Finance and Business Economic and Public Policy and Director, Zell/Lurie Real Estate Center at Wharton, and Fernando Ferreira, Associate Professor, Departments of Real Estate and Business Economics and Public Policy at Wharton, are contributing to the volume.
Penn IUR Faculty Fellows News & Awards

DAVID HSU PUBLISHES ON CLIMATE CHANGE
David Hsu, Assistant Professor in the City and Regional Planning Department in the School of Design, recently co-authored, with a cohort of Fulbright scholars from Latin America, a paper entitled “Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and Climate Change Adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Framework for Action” in the journal Climate and Development. He is also continuing work on green infrastructure and energy efficiency in Philadelphia.

MARK ALAN HUGHES TO DIRECT ENERGY POLICY CENTER
Mark Alan Hughes, Professor of Practice in the School of Design, will direct the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy, which opens this fall at Penn. The Center, which will develop new energy policies by reframing the relationship between research and practice, is being created with a $10 million donation from Scott Kleinman, a Wall Street private-equity manager and 1994 Penn alum.

ALAN KELLY WRITES ABOUT GLOBAL HEALTH
Alan Kelly, The Gilbert S. Kahn Dean Emeritus of the School of Veterinary Medicine, published “Veterinary Medicine’s Increasing Role in Global Health” in The Lancet Global Health.

KENNETH LUM AWARDED GRANT TO EXPLORE MONUMENTS
Kenneth Lum, Professor and Director of Fine Arts Undergraduate Program in the School of Design, has been awarded—with Penn IUR and co-curators A. Will Brown and Paul M. Farber—a Pew Grant for a project entitled “Monument Lab: Creative Speculations for Philadelphia.” The centerpiece of the project will be a temporary monument designed by the late, award-winning artist and University of Pennsylvania professor Terry Adkins, to be installed in City Hall’s central courtyard. This project will precede a planned Philadelphia monument festival to take place in 2016 or 2017.

JOHN L. JACKSON, JR. NAMED DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL POLICY & PRACTICE
John L. Jackson, Jr., the Richard Perry University Professor of Communication, Africana Studies, and Anthropology, with primary appointments in the Annenberg School for Communication, the School of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Social Policy & Practice, was named Dean of Penn’s School of Social Policy & Practice. His new position became effective July 1. (See Faculty Spotlight, page 3, for an interview with Jackson.)

ANURADHA MATHUR PUBLISHES VOLUME ON WATER AND DESIGN
Anuradha Mathur, Professor in the Landscape Architecture Department in the School of Design, published an edited volume, with Adjunct Professor Dilip da Cunha, entitled Design in the Terrain of Water (AR+D publishers, 2014), which followed from an international symposium they conceived and directed at Penn in 2011 and 2012. Mathur and da Cunha are also leading a Rockefeller-funded project on coastal resilience.
Penn IUR Faculty Fellows News & Awards

**Laura W. Perna Publishes, Appointed Fellow**

**Dana Tomlin Authors Two Chapters**
Dana Tomlin, Professor of Landscape Architecture in the School of Design and Co-Director of the Cartographic Modeling Laboratory, recently authored two chapters for *The International Encyclopedia of Geography: People, the Earth, Environment, and Technology* to be published by the Association of American Geographers. These will cover Tomlin’s seminal work on *Map Algebra* and *Cartographic Modeling*.

**Matthew Steinberg Speaks on Racial Disparity in School Discipline**
Matthew Steinberg, Assistant Professor of Education in the Education Policy Division of the Graduate School of Education, was a guest speaker on WHYY’s *Radio Times*, commenting on racial disparities in school discipline.

**Susan Wachter edits Volume on the Financial Crisis**

**Laura Wolf-Powers Publishes Paper on Community Development**
Laura Wolf-Powers, Assistant Professor of City and Regional Planning in the School of Design, published “Theories of Action in Community Development: Norms, Markets, Justice” in the journal *Planning Theory and Practice*. She was also selected as a plenary presenter at the 2014 Local Employment Dynamics Workshop sponsored by the U.S. Department of Commerce.
Penn Gathers Doctoral Students for Presentations and Conversation

Every year, Penn IUR creates opportunities for urban-focused doctoral students to present and discuss their research. In Spring 2014, Penn IUR sponsored the annual Urban Doctoral Poster Presentation session on March 28 and, with Penn's Urban Studies Program, the Urban Doctoral Symposium on May 16.

This year’s Urban Doctoral Poster Presentation session gathered eight doctoral students, along with their mentors and advisors, for an informal breakfast reception with poster presentations. The event highlighted the following students and their work:

- William Fleming, “Can We ReBuild by Design?”
- Albert Han, “Comparative Case Study in Greenbelt Policy”
- Theo Lim, “Infrastructure Planning, Green Infrastructure & Urban Hydrology”
- Simon Mosbah, “In What Circumstances Does a Substantial Investment in Airport Capacity Create a Sustainable Metropolitan Advantage?”
- Marry Rocco, “Philanthropic Foundations in Legacy Cities: Unknown Contributions?”
- Joseph Su, “Can Taipei Plan for a Resilient Metropolis?”
- Josh Warner, “Wage Deserts of the Working Poor”
- Amber Woodburn, “Manage vs. Build: An Overlooked Alternative to Unbridled Airport Growth”

At the end of the semester, Penn IUR and Penn’s Urban Studies Program hosted the 11th Annual Urban Doctoral Symposium in celebration of the achievements of five graduating doctoral students pursuing urban-focused research. The event featured presentations by the graduating students and a lunch reception.

Stuart Andreason, from the School of Design’s Department of City and Regional Planning, kicked off the event with a summary of his study: “Will Talent Attraction and Retention improve Metropolitan Labor Markets? The Labor Market Impact of Increased Educational Attainment in U.S. Metropolitan Regions 1990-2010.” Andreason’s work focuses on educational attainment in U.S. cities and its impact on individuals and metropolitan areas.

Seung Ah Byun, also from the School of Design’s Department of City and Regional Planning, presented “A Comparative Evaluation of State Policies and Programs for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.” Byun used qualitative and quantitative data to evaluate environmental policies that affect the Chesapeake Bay watershed, which encompasses parts of six states.

Jamaica Corker, from the School of Arts and Sciences’ Graduate Group in Demography, presented her study: “Urbanization and Demographic Change in Sub-Saharan Africa: Three Essays on Fertility and Child Mortality Differentials in a Rapidly-Urbanizing Context.” Corker’s work analyzed demographic patterns relating to fertility and mortality in rapidly urbanizing settings of sub-Saharan Africa.

Amy Lynch, from the School of Design’s Department of City and Regional Planning, presented “Is it Good to be Green? An Assessment of County Green Infrastructure Planning in Colorado, Florida, and Maryland.” Lynch’s dissertation analyzed green infrastructure planning across nine U.S. counties.

The final presenter at the Symposium, Claire Robertson-Kraft, from the Graduate School of Education’s Education Policy Division, spoke on “Teachers’ Motivational Responses to New Teacher Performance Management Systems: An Evaluation of the Pilot of Aldine ISD’s invest System.” Robertson-Kraft studied teachers’ influence on student learning and explored how to best support teachers while also maximizing their effectiveness. INVEST, a new teacher evaluation system in the Aldine School District in Houston, Texas, served as her primary case study.

The five presentations were followed by a brief, moderated question-and-answer session. Congratulations on the fine work by all of this year’s graduates!

The City in the 21st Century book series

Eugénie Birch and Susan Wachter, Series Editors

Published by the University of Pennsylvania Press

The City in the 21st Century is a heterodox, interdisciplinary series of books addressing both topical and long-range issues confronting the world’s cities, from disaster response to cultural coexistence, from civic engagement to urban revitalization.

Urban Universities as Anchor Institutions

Penn IUR has published The Power of Eds & Meds: Urban Universities Investing in Neighborhood Revitalization and Innovation Districts. Available on the Penn IUR website, this collection of case studies explores the work of six universities working to revitalize the communities beyond their campuses.

The report considers the initiatives of six universities including Penn’s multi-decade West Philadelphia initiatives; Harvard’s efforts to expand its Allston campus; Cornell’s commitment to build a new campus in partnership with Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and New York City; Johns Hopkins’s collaborative efforts to revitalize its East Baltimore neighborhood; and Columbia’s work to establish a new campus in Manhattanville.

The report illustrates the multitude of ways urban universities invest in revitalization and innovation.

Each university featured in the collection is cognizant of its status as an anchor institution and has made a deliberate choice to expand its mission beyond its campus and to engage its neighboring community. Each institution, however, has its own motivations. Some universities initiated revitalization activities to quell threats—such as deteriorating physical conditions, property abandonment, economic instability, or crime—against their neighborhoods and, by extension, their campuses. Other institutions were motivated by joint university-community needs, investing in housing, commercial development, and open spaces to enrich the neighborhood. Still others became involved because of a call to action by local government or other institutions. In most cases, universities were motivated by a combination of these interests.

Several lessons emerge from The Power of Eds & Meds. The report finds that successful revitalization efforts require universities to align their neighborhood strategies with their institutional missions; that communication between a university and its neighborhood stakeholders is essential; and, finally, that university-neighborhood revitalization strategies must evolve in response to the changing needs, resources, and roles of both university and community.

The report emerged from a two-day expert roundtable entitled “Universities as Anchor Institutions” that Penn IUR and Penn’s Executive Vice President’s office convened in October 2013. The publication adds to Penn IUR’s growing body of research on anchor institutions, including two previous collections, on Arts & Culture Institutions as Urban Anchors and Ballparks as Urban Anchors. Visit http://penniur.upenn.edu/publications to read the reports.

Urban Fiscal Stability and Public Pensions: Sustainability Going Forward

November 11, 3-6:00 pm
Van Pelt Library, 6th Floor

Conference co-sponsored by Next City and made possible with support from Melanie and Lawrence C. Nussdorf.

Register: http://urban-fiscal-stability-and-sustainability.eventbrite.com

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS AND OTHER PENN IUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS, VISIT: HTTP://PENNIUR.UPENN.EDU/EVENTS
Penn IUR sponsors an annual speaker series in which students learn from industry experts about real-life application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and spatial analysis. Over lunch, speakers present their work and engage with students, allowing students unique opportunities to network as well as to learn about new skills, tools, and applications. During the 2013-2014 academic year, MUSA hosted guests from a variety of disciplines and sectors, including practitioners working in economic development and regional planning, government services and resource management, and information technology and aerial imagery.

In the fall term, Penn IUR partnered with the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority (PRA) to present “The Urban GIS Workshop Series,” a program of technical workshops held each Friday in September and October. Guests included MUSA alum Guy Thigpen, Assistant Director at PRA, as well as MUSA alum Ken Stief, Penn IUR Doctoral Fellow, and Kevin Gillen, Senior Research Consultant at Fels Institute of Government. The series introduced various GIS tools and methods currently used in local government, highlighting applications in areas of land-use planning, property assessment and management, vacant land reclamation, and municipal tax policy.

Following the eight-week PRA workshop series, monthly sessions focused on a broader set of professional applications. Lauren Gilchrist, Manager of Research and Analysis at Philadelphia’s Center City District (CCD), presented on the Census’ Local Employment Dynamics data, describing its use in the analysis of metropolitan employment centers. Brian Smith, Director of Commercial Solutions at GeoDecisions, and Adam Conner, Sr. Applications Developer at GeoDecisions, reviewed the changing landscape of the geospatial technology industry across multiple areas and industry sectors and discussed the implications of this evolution for job seekers. MUSA alum Wes Weaver, Aerial Sensor Operator at Keystone Aerial Surveys, Inc., discussed new products and innovations in digital imagery and photogrammetry, including a new colorized three-dimensional modeling technique called a “Key-3D” point cloud, which Keystone Aerial Surveys is developing.

Every year, the speaker series provides a chance for students to learn outside of the classroom setting, exposing them to new technology, tools, and local and regional firms and organizations using GIS. The series offers students a great way to prepare for a career in GIS after graduation, as well as an opportunity for MUSA alumni to return to campus and talk about their work in the field. All events are free and open to the public, which provides a broad mix of participants and networking opportunities. Visit the Penn IUR website for information on the 2014-2015 schedule.

Penn IUR’s report on the Feeding Cities: Food Security in a Rapidly Urbanizing World conference held at the University of Pennsylvania March 13–15, 2013 is available online.

Visit http://penniur.upenn.edu/publications to download this and other Penn IUR publications.
Penn’s Humanities, Urbanism and Design (H+U+D) Initiative in its First Year

In its inaugural year, the Penn Humanities, Urbanism, and Design (H+U+D) Initiative, funded by the Andrew Mellon Foundation, coordinated a faculty Colloquium on cities and sponsored an undergraduate and a graduate course on urban topics. Co-directed by Eugénie Birch, Co-Director of Penn IUR, and David Brownlee, Frances Shapiro-Weitzenhoffer Professor and Chair of the Graduate Group in the History of Art in the Penn School of Arts and Sciences, the five-year H+U+D initiative is a unique, multi-faceted program intended to bridge the gaps among urbanists in the humanities and design disciplines.

The initiative’s co-directors convened twenty faculty members, drawn from both the humanities and design disciplines, for the inaugural faculty Colloquium; each year, the co-directors will identify new faculty members as needed to fill out the Colloquium, with participants appointed for one- and two-year terms. In the 2013-2014 year, Colloquium members met twice monthly to explore cities, meet with visiting guests, and share research. Activities included tours of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and the Philadelphia Museum of Art; a visit to OLIN landscape design studio to learn about the future of Philadelphia’s Dilworth Plaza; and a journey to the historic Philadelphia Lazaretto hospital, the country’s first quarantine hospital. Visiting guests included Jini Kim Watson, Associate Professor of English at NYU, and Jens Baumgarten, Professor of Art History at Universidade Federal de São Paulo.

Additionally, H+U+D sponsored two courses intended to integrate knowledge from both the humanities and design fields. For undergraduates, URBS/HIST 210 The City (Philadelphia)—co-taught by Michael Nairn, Lecturer in Urban Studies, and Eric Schneider, Assistant Dean and Associate Director for Academic Affairs and Adjunct Professor of History—explored the presence of the past in Philadelphia; the evolution of social, spatial, and physical systems; and the encoding of wealth and power as well as inequality and poverty on the urban landscape. For graduate students, ARCH 712/ARTH 581 Architects, Historians and the Invention of Modern Architecture—co-taught by Daniel Barber, Assistant Professor and Associate Chair of Architecture, and David Brownlee—examined the literature of modern architecture, emphasizing the diversity of its authors and its location at the intersection of design practice and humanistic scholarship.

In 2013-2014, H+U+D also awarded five student research grants totaling $8,000; awardees were selected by the Colloquium research grant review committee. Additionally, course development funds were awarded to two faculty members: to Eric Schneider, to plan the undergraduate course The City (Baltimore) and to Francesca Russello Ammon, Assistant Professor in the City and Regional Planning Department in the Penn School of Design, to develop a course that focuses on New Orleans ten years after hurricane Katrina.

Courses offered in 2013-2014 represented the first iterations of an annual undergraduate seminar on a North American city and an annual graduate seminar focused on architectural literature. An additional undergraduate seminar that explores an international city both in the classroom and on the ground will be offered each year beginning in 2014-2015. To learn more about these courses and H+U+D’s other activities, visit the project website: http://www.humanitiesurbanismdesign.com/

Urban Environments and Women’s Health

Penn IUR celebrated its relationship with the Penn School of Nursing with two events on May 15. Penn Nursing, in partnership with Penn IUR, Penn Alumni, and the Trustee’s Council of Penn Women, hosted “Healthy Cities, Healthy Women: The Global Future,” an exploration of the intersection between city environments and gender. That evening, Penn Nursing Alumni hosted a fundraising dinner and reception to honor Dean Afaf I. Meleis, who resigned at the end of the 2013-2014 academic year from her remarkable twelve-year post as Dean of Penn School of Nursing.

The “Healthy Cities, Healthy Women” conference focused on challenges faced by women living in urban environments, including violence against women, lack of access to services, and poor sanitation. It also addressed the powerful role women play in shaping the lives and health of their children, families, and communities.

The conference included opening remarks from Renee Chenault-Fattah, NBC10 News Anchor; Representative Tom Marino (R-PA); Afaf I. Meleis, Margaret Bond Simon Dean of Nursing, Penn School of Nursing; a keynote address from Edward G. Rendell, former Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and remarks from Anne Morrissey, President and CEO, AmeriHealth Caritas. Healthcare experts, urban planning experts, government and NGO leaders, and researchers presented on topics such as: efforts to improve the health of homeless women; how the availability of food stores and activity environments influence obesity levels; and the effects of neighborhood environments on the prevalence of HIV.

The conference also included a presentation of the inaugural Penn Nursing Renfield Foundation Award for Global Women’s Health, which was awarded to Edna Adan Ismail, Founder of the Edna Adan Hospital in Somaliland. Adan has spent much of her life campaigning for safe childbirth and motherhood in developing countries. The Renfield Award raises awareness of global women’s health issues by honoring a demonstrated leader in improving the lives of women and supporting their ongoing efforts with a $100,000 cash prize.

Penn IUR 10th Anniversary Special Event

Cities, Music, and Urban Culture

On February 27, Penn IUR hosted a 10th Anniversary Special Event that explored the intersection of cities, music, and urban culture in Philadelphia and that included live music performances. Part of the Sound and the City Seminar series, the event was made possible with funding from the Office of the Provost in celebration of the Year of Sound and was co-sponsored by the Penn School of Arts and Sciences’ Urban Studies Program.

Kathy Peiss, the Roy and Jeanette Nichols Professor of American History, welcomed attendees and introduced keynote speaker Nick Spitzer. Spitzer, Producer of public radio’s “American Routes” and Professor of American Studies and Anthropology at Tulane University in New Orleans, lectured on Philadelphia’s incredibly rich culture and music history, from the jazz palaces and musicians of first half of the twentieth century to the myriad artists of today. Spitzer then interviewed the musical guests before each performed a short set.

Musicians included Jimmy Heath, saxophonist, leader of Philadelphia’s Heath Brothers, and winner of the National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master Award; Sam Reed, jazz saxophonist and bandleader at the Uptown Theater in the 1950s and ’60s; Elaine Hoffman Watts and Susan Watts, mother-daughter, trumpet-drum, klezmer duo; the Budesa Brothers with Lucky Thompson, organ trio; and Frankie and the Fashions, four-part, doo-wop harmony group.

The audience clearly delighted in the musicians’ stories of performing in earlier days. Jimmy Heath and Sam Reed shared stories of playing jazz clubs such as the Showboat, the Zanzibar, and the Uptown Theater. Frank Lafaro of Frankie and the Fashions described a time when music in Philadelphia was a great equalizer, acting as a common language that united racial and ethnic groups. Elaine Hoffman Watts, the first female drummer at the Curtis Institute of Music, described how her family continues to pass down klezmer music from generation to generation, even though it has been fading from popular culture since the mid-century.

The event, which drew a crowd of around 150 people, was slated to last two hours, but much of the audience remained for an additional hour-long reception to trade stories with the guests as the Budesa Brothers played on. To watch a video of this event, visit: http://penniur.upenn.edu/events/penn-iur-sound-and-the-city-seminar-city-soundscapes-music-words-identities.

JAZZ LEGENDS: Saxophonists Sam Reed (left) and Jimmy Heath (right) play backed up by the Budesa Brothers and Lucky Thompson
Tracking Progress Toward Sustainability

The Sustainable Communities Indicator Catalog (SCIC), now undergoing testing, is expected to launch in Fall 2014. The online database, which will be available at www.sustainablecommunities.gov, will help communities track their progress toward sustainability and livability. Developed by city planning doctoral students working with Penn IUR, the project is funded by the Ford Foundation in concert with the Partnership for Sustainable Communities (PSC), which is a collaboration among three federal agencies: Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The SCIC connects communities of various sizes and technical capacities with the measurement strategies, examples, and data sources that are most appropriate for their needs and goals. Comprised of 93 built environment indicators used by communities throughout the United States to measure sustainability or climate action, the searchable database is practice-oriented.

Promoting Shared Prosperity in US Cities

(continued from p. 1)

demographic and economic trends, innovative tools for bridging the gap between growth and opportunity, and successful agents of change within communities. Discussions covered a range of topics including education, housing markets, financial markets and tools, economic inclusion and wealth building, and community revitalization.

The conference featured two keynote speeches, one on May 13 by M. Night Shyamalan, Hollywood director and author of I Got Schooled and the other on May 14 by Leigh Gallagher, Assistant Managing Editor at Fortune magazine and author of End of the Suburbs: Where the American Dream is Moving. Shyamalan discussed his efforts to uncover the common ingredients for a successful public school. They are: more time in school, small schools, data-driven teaching methods, active leadership engaged in teacher instruction, and retention of high-quality teachers. In conjunction with Shyamalan’s address, the school superintendents of Toledo, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, and Detroit offered lively comments on school reform. In her address, Gallagher examined physical and economic shifts taking place in suburban America. She highlighted increasing population diversity, higher poverty rates, and growing demand for walkable, dense neighborhoods.

Raj Chetty, Bloomberg Professor of Economics, Harvard University, opened the conference’s first panel, Economic Growth with Benefits for All. He argued that the United States exhibits significant variation in upward economic mobility rates. He associated this variation with five characteristics: segregation, income inequality and the size of the middle class, school quality, family structure, and social capital. Variations in each of these factors, especially segregation, correlate with variations in rates of mobility.

Several speakers, including Mark Zandi, Chief Economist, Moody’s Analytics; Susan Wachter, Penn IUR Co-Director; and Jeremy Nowak, President, J. Nowak and Associates, responded to the challenges identified by Chetty within the context of answering a key question: What does the future hold for cities? Zandi predicted that larger metro areas, stabilized by their more diversified economies, will continue to grow in the future; meanwhile, many smaller areas will continue to struggle and, thus, should focus their resources on protecting their primary economic asset. Wachter pointed to the rebound, and likely continued growth, of many cities but, she warned, they need to address housing affordability and income disparity. Agreeing with these visions, Nowak emphasized the need for a nuanced reading of current trends. Using Philadelphia as an example, he noted that, like many cities, it had experienced increased population growth from 2000 to 2010 for the first time since 1950. Closer analysis, he suggested, reveals that the sources of the growth were 22 to 33 year olds, but that youth (under 17) and the 34 to 55 age cohorts continue to decline. In addition, he pointed out that low- and high-wage jobs are growing but middle-income jobs are decreasing.

The Reinventing Communities conference offered several takeaway messages. First, while cities are faced with unique challenges, especially income inequality and housing affordability, they possess the necessary tools to move towards increased prosperity. Second, as the suburbs confront increasing poverty rates, policymakers must prioritize economic inclusion and wealth-building strategies so that all people and communities benefit from economic growth. Third, local governments will need to forge partnerships (such as with anchor institutions, community development partners, philanthropic partners, and grassroots organizations) to address many different issues within their communities. Fourth, older cities are moving beyond trying to rebuild the past—they are anticipating “where the puck is going to be.”

Access videos of the conference here: http://www.philadelphiafed.org/community-development/events/2014/reinventing-older-communities/
HOW DOES YOUR AFFILIATION WITH PENN IUR FURTHER YOUR CROSS-DISCIPLINARY GOALS?

Penn’s PiK program has changed my scholarly life. It has given me the license—even a kind of University-sponsored mandate—to teach and conduct research and train graduate students in ways that don’t treat disciplinary boundaries in overly precious ways. Disciplinary differences are real, and important, but only to the extent that they help us to understand the various vantage points from which reasonable thinkers can attempt to ask and answer interesting questions. But there is also a kind of “disciplinary decadence” (to use a term coined by philosopher Lewis Gordon) that easily sneaks up on you if you aren’t careful. The canon you learned and internalized is both enabling and restrictive, which means that sometimes going beyond your discipline might be just the move one has to make in an effort to think as innovatively as possible about the things you want to know. Indeed, I can’t talk about my research as an urban ethnographer without understanding it as inextricably linked to the work I do in visual anthropology and Africana Studies. Penn IUR is such a multi-disciplinary space. It has to be. And anyone interested in conducting research on urban issues had better know when to push their specific disciplinary training to its limit.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR SP2?

First of all, everyone on campus and around the city of Philadelphia should know about the important research and fieldwork that SP2’s faculty, students, and alumni conduct. It is absolutely phenomenal. Moreover, SP2 is already one of the spaces on campus that has produced some of the most concrete and ongoing links/ties to institutions in Asia. So SP2’s story is as much global as it is local. We model a brand of scholarship that has always been in the world. As someone trained in anthropology, I appreciate the methodological value that SP2 places on fieldwork, and I want to help make the case not just for the rigor of that curricular investment, but also for the idea that our graduates are better theorists and analysts as a function of such experiences. The issues that SP2 tackles are big ones (homelessness, mass incarceration, mental health care, child abuse, welfare policies, nonprofit governance, foster care, family violence), and this small School’s significance will only continue to grow in the coming years. SP2 already boasts some of the nation’s leaders on these important topics, and one of my jobs is to make sure that everyone knows that. Many people hear Penn, and almost immediately think of Wharton. My job is to help ensure that more and more people think of SP2, too. Penn is all the stronger if that’s true.

RESOLUTION

Place Matters as Cities Transform

(Continued from p. 1)

Dhaka, and Academic Coordinator at the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, used Bangladesh’s experience as an example of how housing investments can promote equitable growth by providing jobs, improving health, and increasing households’ purchasing powers. Saskia Sassen, Penn IUR Faculty Scholar, Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology, and Co-Chair of The Committee on Global Thought at Columbia University, discussed worldwide social and environmental problems such as widening income gaps between the rich and the middle classes, displacement of populations, and increasing destruction of natural resources. Following the four kick-off presentations, researchers formed roundtable groups around five cross-disciplinary topics: resilience and metropolitan systems, economic agglomeration, inequality, transportation and infrastructure, and urban analytics.

On March 28, Theresa Singleton, Vice President of Community Development Studies and Education at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, moderated “Think Tanks and Foundations: Views on Urban Issues,” a panel discussion with Don Chen, Senior Program Officer at the Ford Foundation; Ben Hecht, President and CEO of Living Cities; Ron Kassimir, Senior Advisor at the Social Science Research Council; Shawn McCaney, Senior Program Officer at the William Penn Foundation; and Justin Scheid, Associate Director of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Panelists identified three urban research priorities: collaboration, global knowledge transfer, and equity-focused investigations.

The next session, “Crafting a Global Commons: Universities and Institutes around the World,” delved more deeply into the topic of global knowledge transfer and collaboration. Researchers agreed that existing networks of global researchers and practitioners need to be strengthened. Many voiced concerns about the difficulties of breaking down traditional research silos. Others pointed out that “Global South” and “Global North” research priorities differ; researchers must recognize these differing priorities and take care not to shortchange one region over another.

Throughout the summit, participants acknowledged an emerging paradigm shift among researchers—a shift away from academic insularity towards collaboration. They asked how researchers can effectively collaborate with practitioners, actively impact urban policy, share knowledge more quickly, and harness the power of collective intelligence and data.

Seven over-arching topics emerged as research priorities from the summit discussions: urban form, inequality, collective intelligence and data, knowledge transfer, climate change and resilience, informality and institutional capacity, and heterogeneity. For more on these topics, read Penn IUR’s report on the research summit, available at http://penniur.upenn.edu/publications. A website with additional information is under development and will be available in early Fall 2014.
About Penn IUR

THE PENN INSTITUTE FOR URBAN RESEARCH (PENN IUR) is dedicated to advancing cross-disciplinary urban-focused research, instruction, and civic engagement on issues relevant to cities around the world. As the global population becomes increasingly urban, understanding cities is vital to informed decision-making and public policy at the local, national, and international levels. Penn IUR has a strong focus on research that informs the sustainable and inclusive twenty-first-century city. By providing a forum for collaborative scholarship and instruction at Penn and beyond, Penn IUR stimulates research and engages with urban practitioners and policymakers to inform urban policy.

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