The Penn IUR Undergraduate Urban Research Colloquium (UURC) facilitates faculty-mentored, undergraduate urban-focused research. The program includes support for a joint faculty-student research project and a semester-long, credit-bearing seminar. The UURC invites the participation of faculty from across the 12 schools to undertake research on a wide range of urban issues. Students from each of the University’s undergraduate schools (Arts and Sciences, Engineering and Applied Science, Nursing and Wharton) are eligible to participate. The program will sponsor up to 10 projects. Grant funds up to $2,000 per research team will be provided for faculty to support new and/or existing research efforts.

Projects have ranged from ethnographic studies of Philadelphia night life (anthropology) to identifying barriers to walking in disadvantaged neighborhoods (nursing and public health) to analyzing urban mass transit (engineering). UURC has yielded publications in refereed journals, leveraged other research funding and prepared undergraduates to pursue original research as an extension of the UURC project or in other areas.

For more information on participating in the Penn IUR UURC, please contact Meagan Ehlenz at mehlenz@design.upenn.edu or at 215-573-8386. See below for list of past research initiatives by participants’ departments and schools.

### Past Research Initiatives by Penn IUR UURC Participants

#### Anthropology (SAS)

- An evaluation of the feasibility of replicating different models of assisted community schools  
  S: Jamie Etkind  
  F: Brian Spooner  

- Clarifying existing definitions of globalization and building on them to enrich our understanding of the processes of qualitative social change  
  S: Zohra Ahmed  
  F: Brian Spooner  

- Ethnographic exploration of challenges to accessing and adhering to HIV services among Latinos in North Philadelphia: a community-based collaboration  
  S: Carlos Martinez-Ruiz  
  F: Philippe Bourgois  

- Ethnography of the harm reduction potential in North Philadelphia shooting galleries  
  S: Nadja Eisenberg-Guyot  
  F: Philippe Bourgois  

- Examining the civic engagement of Muslims in Philadelphia  
  S: Sindhuri Nandhakumar  
  F: Brian Spooner  

- Hopeless in Philadelphia: A city in need  
  S: Taryn Williams  
  F: Philippe Bourgois  

- Income generating strategies of three social networks of Puerto Rican youth  
  S: George Karandinos  
  F: Philippe Bourgois  

- Proposal for reproductive health research project in India  
  S: Sugandha Singh  
  F: Brian Spooner  

- Water-related urban issues  
  S: Misha Chakrabarti  
  F: Brian Spooner  

- Gender in Global Community Gardens  
  S: Sandra Zhao  
  F: Brian Spooner  

#### Architecture (Penn Design)

- Baghdad year zero  
  S: Andrew Turner, Sarah DeWolf  
  F: Jennifer Leung  

- Undergraduate course on green architecture and urban sustainability  
  S: Ayasha Guerin  
  F: Richard Wesley  

#### Asian American Studies (SAS)

- Asian American communities in Philadelphia: Development and contemporary issues  
  S: Kristen Kelly  
  F: Fariha Khan  

- Income generating strategies of three social networks of Puerto Rican youth  
  S: George Karandinos  
  F: Philippe Bourgois  

- Proposal for reproductive health research project in India  
  S: Sugandha Singh  
  F: Brian Spooner  

- Water-related urban issues  
  S: Misha Chakrabarti  
  F: Brian Spooner  

- Gender in Global Community Gardens  
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- Proposal for reproductive health research project in India  
  S: Sugandha Singh  
  F: Brian Spooner  

#### Biostatistics and Epidemiology (Penn Medicine)

- Implementing a conflict resolution program involving story-telling at Charles R. Drew Elementary School  
  S: Katherine Fleming  
  F: Andrea B. Troxel  

- Community development in Arab and Muslim Philadelphia  
  S: Ben Dubow  
  F: Domenic Vitiello  

#### City and Regional Planning (Penn Design)

- A Philadelphia multi-permit program for ecosystem services  
  S: Emily Zhang  
  F: Paul Amos, Mark Alan Hughes  

- Anchor institutions  
  S: Courtney Edwards  
  F: Eugenie Birch  

#### Bernice Elza Homes, a case study in sustainable urban development  
S: Joanna Karaman  
F: Eugenie Birch  

#### Civil society and economic integration in Puerto Rican and Mexican Philadelphia  
S: Juliana Pineda  
F: Dominic Vitiello  

#### Dadeok Innopolis in Korea and the Philadelphia Innovation District Initiatives  
S: SoYoung Park  
F: Eugenie Birch  

#### Documenting the undocumented: Community and economic development among Mexican immigrants  
S: Oscar Benitez  
F: Domenic Vitiello  

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**Penn IUR Undergraduate Urban Research Colloquium**

**Save the Dates**

Information Session:  
October 16, 2014  
1:00 PM  
G-12 Meyerson Hall

Proposal Due:  
October 31, 2014

Award Notice:  
November 7, 2014
Governance of urban water in Pakistan
S: Aaron Lewis
F: Eugenie Birch

Immigrant community issues in Harrisburg, PA
S: Sheila Quintana
F: Domenic Vitiello

Measuring walkability in urban environments
S: Alexandra Malikova
F: Rachel Weinberger

Social movements and community development in Latino Philadelphia
S: Yuri Castaño
F: Domenic Vitiello

The impact of preservation upon value and the urban landscape
S: Peter Volynsky
F: Lynne Sagalyn

The rise of car share projects in U.S. cities
S: Ashwin Shandilya
F: Eugenie Birch

The role of urban university undergraduate student organizations-community relations
S: Haywood Perry
F: Ira Harkavy

Update research on “Is Shorter Better? An analysis of gender, race, and industrial segregation in San Francisco Bay Area commuting patterns,” using 2000 PUMS data
S: Tara Krueger
F: Rachel Weinberger

Earth and Environmental Science (SAS)

Heavy metal contaminants in urban community gardens
S: Jana Ariel Hirsch
F: Richard Pepino

Education (GSE)

Developing an assessment of college access programs in Philadelphia
S: Melanie Young
F: Rebecca Maynard

Documenting the experiences of new “Teach for America” teachers, and exploring in Philadelphia classrooms
S: Stephanie Mendiola, Danielle Hardoon
F: Kathy Schultz

History (SAS)
American necropolis: Homicide in the American city
S: Samantha Napierkowski, Julian Smyth
F: Eric Schneider

American Necropolis: The history of homicide and homicide as history
S: Alison Marcus
F: Eric Schneider

Creating an online GIS version of The Philadelphia Negro, the classic work of sociology written by W.E.B. DuBois in 1899 based on his survey of Philadelphia’s old 7th ward
S: Benjamin Berman
F: Eric Schneider,
Amy Hillier

Immigration and urban revitalization
S: Will Darwell
F: Michael Katz

The Philadelphia civil rights documentation project
S: Christina Grayson
F: Thomas Sugrue

The politicization of police-community relations and black urban politics in the North, c. 1960-1980
S: Andrew Goodman
F: Thomas Sugrue

Music (SAS)
A comparative study of urban street sound and aural flakes
S: Amalia Lund
F: Naomi Waltham-Smith

Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations (SAS)
Hip-Hop in Fes: Islam, faith, and the convergence of cultures
S: Yuvall Orr
F: Heather Sharkey

Modern-urban products and spatial politics on the Arabian Gulf
S: Cameron Hu
F: Heather Sharkey

Nursing (Penn Nursing)
Assessment of the effect of “Girls on the Go” program on the fitness of 3rd-5th grade girls
S: Allison Ramsey-Lefevre
F: Stella Volpe

Development of an urban registry for sexual assault cases
S: Justine Llop
F: Linda A. McCauley

Examining the effects of HAART on health-related quality of life among HIV sero-positive African-Americans
S: Katherine Ball
F: Christopher Coleman

Examining the health promotion activities of urban dwelling older adults in Philadelphia
S: Cindy Lou Cuesta
F: Eileen Sullivan-Marx

Identifying and evaluating barriers to walking or bicycling for low-income African-Americans in West Philadelphia
S: Elizabeth Staebler
F: Stella Volpe

Mothers’ beliefs and experiences regarding breastfeeding in public urban areas
S: Catlin Phillips
F: Anne Teitelman

Political Science (SAS)
Efficacy of student volunteers with internet access to assist clients with enrollment in public benefits programs at city health clinics
S: Elise Miller
F: Mary Summers

Examining barriers to food stamp access for eligible Philadelphians
S: Yan (Julie) Shen, Jessica Appleton
F: Mary Summers

Growing urban utopias: Exploring educational urban agriculture in West Philadelphia
S: Rebecca Havivi
F: Mary Summers

Identifying key causal factors in county/state food stamp enrollment rates
S: Shane McWilliams
F: Mary Summers

Lea Lunch and Recess Initiative
S: Sheyla Medina
F: Mary Summers

Real Estate (Wharton)
Does legal status matter? Effects of the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act Amnesty on residential choice
S: Alex Dogariu
F: Fernando Vendramel Ferreira

Revitalizing Chambersburg’s commercial district
S: David Hilbert
F: Albert Saiz

The impact of income distribution on school investment in Philadelphia, PA
S: Sue (Shou) Hua
F: Fernando Ferreira

Social Policy & Practice (SP2)
Exploring urban-suburban congregational collaborations in the Greater Philadelphia area
S: Shakirah Simley, Evan Fain
F: Ram Cnaan

The impact of affordable homeowner and rental housing projects in Philadelphia funded through CDBG funding
S: Abukari Zuberi
F: Dennis Cullane

Sociology (SAS)
How the anonymity of urban nightlife affords young persons the opportunity to experiment with adult roles and urban lifestyles
S: Rebecca Aronson
F: David Grazian

Urban Studies (SAS)
Assessing the potential for TOD in Philadelphia
S: Paul Marvuci
F: Ariel Ben-Amos

Electricity literacy and the PJM widget at Penn
S: Ian MacLean
F: Eugenie Birch

Grassroots resistance to market based school reform in Philadelphia
Leadership among community development financial institutions
S: Sarah Iosifescu
F: Andy Lamas

Special urban districts and energy efficiency movements to urban studies
S: Claire Shimberg
F: Jonathan Barnett

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits access in Philadelphia
S: Margaret Buff
F: Mary Summers

Sustainable block program in Philadelphia
S: Tan Chan
F: Ariel Ben-Amos

The impact of the Franklin Institute on nineteenth-century Philadelphia
S: Willa Granger
F: George Thomas

The role of community development corporations in West Philadelphia
S: Nicole Thomas
F: Felipe Gorostiza

Urban planning, modernization and economic development in post-colonial states/developing countries
S: Qingying Xia
F: Shahana Chattaraj

*S = student; F = faculty