



Mayors' Institute on City Design Convenes at Penn

November 16, 2005 mayors and university leaders from across the country came to Penn along with urban design and development experts to discuss "The University and Public Design: The Impact of Urban University Development on Cities." the Mayors' Institute on City Design session, sponsored by the Penn Institute for Urban Research, critically examined the relationship between expanding universities and their cities. Mayors and university leaders who participated shared a common theme of major investment in their neighborhoods or beyond. In addition, the design experts on hand lend valuable knowledge to the specific design issues each city/university partner identified. The two-day event was an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts, the American Architectural Foundation and the US Conference of Mayors.



Most of the participants arrived on Wednesday night, and on Thursday morning, the sessions began. In these sessions, the mayors, university representatives, and resource team members discussed case studies presented by each of the city-university teams. The conference also featured a lunch at President Amy Gutmann's mansion as well as a reception at City Hall hosted by Philadelphia's Mayor John Street. For more information on this session, visit www.upenn.edu/penniur/micd.htm

Community Solutions Symposium on Affordable Housing



Community Solutions, a joint venture of the Penn Institute for Urban Research and the Rosenberg Housing Group, is a series of executive-level symposiums to open a dialogue between leaders in government, quasi-government, and non-profit institutions regarding issues in affordable housing and community development. The series was created with the goal of helping leaders identify and examine strategies for success in an environment of shifting priorities and funding sources. Drawing from the expertise of Robert C. Rosenberg and the leadership at RHG, as well as the research capabilities of Penn IUR, the executive symposium series offers a unique opportunity for leaders to acquire strategies that work.

The inaugural session of the executive symposium series, "*Repositioning Public Housing: Strategies and Practices*," was held at the Wharton School on October 27, 2005. The conference was attended by industry leaders and consultants from across the country, and included presentations by the Philadelphia Housing Authority, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and others. In a series of interactive group programs, attendees could choose from presentations such as financing opportunities and strategies, development strategies, and cultivating community support. After the sessions, the group ended the day with a reception at the University of Pennsylvania's Office of Facilities and Real Estate Services, which included a photo exhibit, "*Building Beyond Expectations*", showcasing the work of the Philadelphia Housing Authority, now a national model for mixed-income housing developments. Contact Penn IUR for more information on future Community Solutions events.

Urban News @ Penn



Urban Leadership Panel

June 15, 2005 Penn IUR held its annual Urban Leadership Luncheon, entitled *"The Role of Mayors in Urban Transformation"* featuring Mayor of Miami, Manuel Diaz, former Mayor of Indianapolis, Stephen Goldsmith, and former Mayor of New Orleans, Marc H. Morial, three leaders who know from personal experience the issues facing American cities and the role mayors must take in addressing these issues.

All three mayors agreed that discussions such as the Urban Leadership Luncheon were not only beneficial, but also vital. "By sharing ideas, problems and solutions we gain a greater perspective on what it takes to improve cities and make them successful," said Diaz. At the luncheon he shared the issues Miami faces as a diverse city with, 62 percent of the city's population being foreign born, and the amazing transformations the city is undergoing both in internal government structure and in physical nature.

Some of the other issues discussed include crime, poverty, and urban improvement. The panelists cited the collaboration between urban policy makers and local businesses as one of the most important necessities and the primary step to beginning urban transformation. Former Mayor Morial, C '80, now president of the National Urban League, noted that "once [business leaders] figured out crime was a potential Achilles Heel for the community they became an active ally."

Vacant Property Exhibit

Sponsored by the Fels Institute of Government, Penn's Division of Facilities and Real Estate Services, and Penn IUR, the *"Vacant Property Redefined"* Exhibit was a series of five two-week displays of vacant property reclamation projects. The displays were presented at the Left Bank Gallery over the course of the Fall semester, each featuring a public forum and reception. Some of the subjects of this exhibit included the development of the Camden waterfront, the conversion of a North Philadelphia railroad yard into a residential center, and the development of residential "Rag Flats" on a row-house block in Fishtown.



Panel Discussion on Gaming in Philadelphia

November 8, 2005 Penn IUR held a panel discussion entitled *"The Casinos Are Coming: What Will Gaming Mean for Philadelphia."* The panel addressed the groundbreaking decision to allow gaming in Philadelphia and the decision's social, political, and economic ramifications upon the city of Philadelphia. The panel featured two of the co-chairs of the Philadelphia Gaming Advisory Task Force, Wharton Professor Bernard E. Anderson and President of the Center City District Paul Levy.

The two panelists are well qualified to discuss the impact gaming might have on life in Philadelphia. The job of the Philadelphia Gaming Advisory Task Force has been to advise the mayor on feasibility of gaming in different locations of the city and the effect that the gaming will have. They are also actively involved in keeping an open and healthy dialogue within the community that will be affected by gaming facilities.

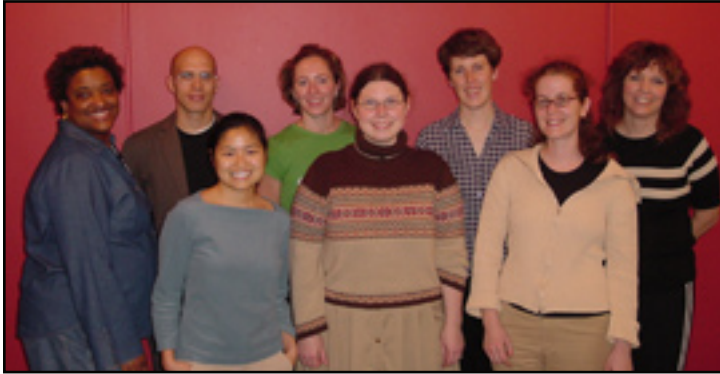
Penn IUR is committed to ongoing Public Interest Series events. Please watch our online calendar for upcoming events.

Academics

Welcoming First MUSA Class 2005-2006

The inaugural class of the Master of Urban Spatial Analytics Program (MUSA) is finishing up their first semester at Penn. The students come from diverse backgrounds and have equally diverse goals.

Three members of the class, Laura Blackstone, Peggy Wu and Michael Mariano have stated their interest in pursuing a career in land use and real estate. Michael shares an interest in economic and community development with Jeanetta Churchill, formerly an Epidemiologist at the University of Maryland. Gavin M. Hecker plans to focus on the design and use of public spaces in urban environments, while Elizabeth Houser intends to focus on environmental conservation, land use, and regional planning. Shimrit Keddem intends to apply GIS to public health research upon completion of



the program. Several students are interested in pursuing doctoral degrees after completing the program, including Naomi Drexler, Hollie Kitson, and Nicholas Klein.

The ten students are from very different parts of the world. They have come to Penn to pursue the MUSA degree as the next step in becoming leaders in their fields. Faculty advisor, Amy Hillier says of the class, "This has been a very impressive group of students. They are holding their own in very challenging courses across campus."

Former UURC Students Share Their Experiences and Give Advice to Incoming Class

In the Spring 2006 semester, nine undergraduate students will collaborate with faculty on research projects for the second year of Penn IUR's Undergraduate Urban Research Course (CPLN 528/URBS 428). This round of students will be exploring topics ranging from gender and commute time to barriers to food stamp access in the Philadelphia. Two students from the Spring 2005 UURC gave their opinions on the course and advice to the incoming class.

Tara Krueger (C'06), an Urban Studies major, was a participant in the Spring 2005 UURC. For her project, she worked with Professor Rachel Weinberger (PennDesign) on a project entitled, "Is Shorter Better." Tara worked to update Weinberger's 1996 study on gender differences in commute times in San Francisco, with data from the 2000 census. When asked about her experience in the UURC, Tara recalled the unique structure of the course. She emphasized the value of the course's two separate components: the weekly course meetings and the one-on-one research with the faculty partner. "As you are delving into your own research, you are learning from the strengths and weaknesses of others," she explained. The weekly gatherings exposed each of the students to the research subjects and methods of the others. "The range of research projects was really spectacular."

Andrew Goodman (C'06), a History major, worked with Professor Thomas Sugrue (SAS) for his UURC project. Theirs was a historical research project focusing on race riots in the late 1960's, in particular, those taking place in the suburbs. They looked at the case study of Plainfield, NJ and posed the question, "why did this riot happen here?" In describing his experience, Andrew recalled many hours of research in the library, studying historical documents. By the end of the course, they had a 50-page final paper, that was submitted by Professor Sugrue to the Journal of Urban History. Andrew advised incoming students to "ask a lot of questions" of the other professors and students, and to take advantage of the wide variety of perspectives and approaches that come together for the UURC.

Faculty & Research News

Penn IUR provides financial support for Faculty Forums that seek to foster and support interdisciplinary research and collaboration among Penn faculty and graduate students. Faculty Forums, directed by two or more faculty members representing two disciplines and/or schools, foster dialogue, highlight Penn's intellectual strengths, and offer opportunities for innovative research. Two faculty forums are currently engaged in collaborative research efforts at this time. Here we highlight some of the activities of each of the current forums.



Faculty Forum Update: Immigration Race and Urban Inequality

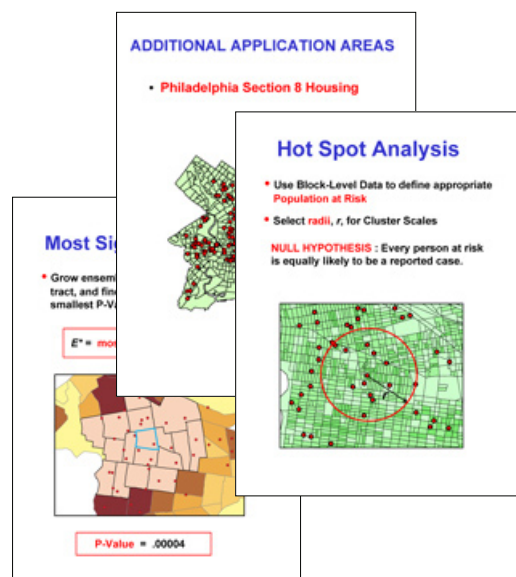
This Faculty Forum functions on two levels—first an exploration of theoretical literature related to immigration, race, and urban inequality, working toward an analytic framework useful for ongoing research. The second level is the documentation of post-1965 immigration and immigrant-African American relations in metropolitan Philadelphia. This is important because these topics remain understudied and because Philadelphia exemplifies a type of urban area not well represented in immigration research. This pairing of perspectives will support the infusing of theory into the study of greater Philadelphia and the Philadelphia-based empirical work influencing theory.

Recent activity within the Faculty Forum has focused on census data analysis as well as immigrant-black relations and the inadequacies of human relations approaches to inter-group conflict. The highlight of the spring semester will be a public lecture by sociologist Roger Waldinger of UCLA, one of the leading scholars of the relations among urban change, ethnicity, and international migration. He will speak on transnationalism. In addition to its seminars, the forum is sponsoring a continuation of the research on immigration to Philadelphia started last summer. With Michael Katz (SAS) as principal investigator, it is submitting a proposal to analyze the demography of immigration to Philadelphia from 1960 to 2000 to the University Research Foundation fall cycle.

For more information, visit their website <www.upenn.edu/penniur/forum_immigration.htm> or contact Sonya Gwak at sgwak@dolphin.upenn.edu.

Faculty Forum Update: Modeling Urban Environmental Impacts on Health, Development, and Behavior

This forum aims to: 1) strengthen existing research in the area of “neighborhood effects” by Penn faculty investigators; 2) introduce new faculty and graduate students to the value of geographic information systems (GIS), spatial analysis techniques, and fine scale demographic and environmental data for modeling the impact of the urban environment; and 3) promote new collaborations among faculty investigators that lead to the development of fundable research proposals. These faculty forum seminars facilitate inter-disciplinary collaboration and are dynamic opportunities for Penn faculty and graduate students to learn about new or unique research methods. Through the seminars held to date, more than 50 researchers have shared ideas and many of them are known to have followed up after the seminars to discuss working together on future projects. The seminars are held on the second Wednesday of every month.



For more information visit their website at <www.cml.upenn.edu/facultyforum> or contact Joel Caplan at jcaplan@sp2.upenn.edu.

Faculty & Research News, cont.

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Amy Hillier

Dr. Amy Hillier is no stranger to Penn IUR or to Penn. She has been at Penn for 10 years, both as a student and as faculty, and has been connected to Penn IUR since its inception in 2004.

Dr. Hillier is an Assistant Professor of City Planning. She teaches classes in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for City and Regional Planning, Urban Studies, and the School of Social Policy and Practice. She has also taught courses in research methods. Regarding her connection to Penn IUR, Dr. Hillier was involved with last spring's Undergraduate Urban Research Course, as well as the Faculty Forum on Urban Environmental Impacts on Health, Development, and Behavior. Currently, she serves as Faculty Advisor for the new Master of Urban Spatial Analytics (MUSA) program. Dr. Hillier expressed much excitement about the program and her role in it.



"The most exciting thing about the program is that the students can take classes anywhere on campus. That happens to also be the most challenging part of my job. There is so much flexibility in the program and only 9 courses. My job is to help the students to make good choices. I also try to make sure they feel supported; I act as an advocate for them...and just generally, look after them."

Dr. Hillier also facilitates internship opportunities for the students, and she is currently working on organizing a new Advanced GIS class for the spring.

Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT
February 2-3, 2006	Rebuilding Urban Places After Disaster: Lessons from Hurricane Katrina <i>www.upenn.edu/penniur/rebuilding</i>
March 17, 2006	"Immigration, Race and Inequality" - Roger Waldinger, UCLA Penn IUR Faculty Forum Lecture
March 29, 2006	"Race and the Supreme Court" - David Kairys, Temple Law School Penn IUR Public Interest Series Lecture
April 21, 2006	The New Downtown A conference to examine the changing face of urban downtowns
April 26, 2006	Penn IUR Annual Urban Leadership Luncheon
April 28, 2006	Penn IUR Faculty Retreat
May 12, 2006	Penn IUR Urban Doctoral Symposium

For information about upcoming events, visit our calendar of events online at:
<http://www.localendar.com/public/penniur>

About Penn IUR

The Penn Institute for Urban Research (Penn IUR) is a university-wide body that builds on Penn's record as an urban institution by advancing urban scholarship, developing methodological tools for urban research, and applying research to public policy. Penn IUR enhances the field of urban-focused knowledge through a commitment to cities on a local and global scale. The Institute is premised on the belief that place matters to understanding urban phenomena, recognizing that spatially-based approaches are essential to identifying urban challenges, strategies, and solutions. As a campus-wide institution, Penn IUR stimulates research, provides opportunities for collaborative instruction, and engages with the world of practitioners and policymakers.



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