Greetings from Chicago! It’s been a year since I joined the University of Illinois at Chicago as the new department head of Urban Planning and Policy (UPP). I knew I was coming to an outstanding place, but what I experienced over the past year was beyond that. The Department is motivated by social justice and spatial equity and committed to excellence in delivering its professional and academic degrees, research and public service. Throughout 2017 this commitment was manifested in so many ways and the year has been eventful for UPP. This annual review is compiled to share an insight into this dynamic place and community of faculty, students, alumni and affiliated scholars and practitioners, local and across the globe. I invite you to enjoy the review and I look forward to reporting on 2018.

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA || Professor Rachel Weber’s book *From Boom to Bubble – How Finance Built the New Chicago* received the Urban Affairs Association (UAA) Book of the Year Award. [MORE]

PROFESSIONAL INTERFACES || APA awarded Dr. Moira Zellner, Director of the Urban Data Visualization Lab (UDVL), the inaugural Academic Technology Innovator Award for her participatory tool for green infrastructure and storm water management. [MORE]

GLOCAL REACH || Professor Nik Theodore’s report on the employment conditions of informally hired construction workers in Houston following the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, was noted on the National Public Radio (NPR) Weekend Edition, discussed on The Takeaway and covered by multiple other media outlets including the The Guardian, the Washington Post, Houston Chronicle, Houston Public Media, In These Times, La Opinión, Think Progress, and Latino USA. [MORE]

CONVERSATIONS || UIC Urban Forum *The Public Infrastructure of Work and Play* addressed the importance of both ‘hard’ and ‘soft’ infrastructure for enhancing the economic development potential of cities as well as improving the quality of life for all residents. [MORE]

PEOPLE || Our distinguished and renowned colleague, Emeritus Professor Charlie Hoch, retired last spring, with a formal farewell held in March and attended by many of the departmental associates – current and past – from around the Chicago region and nationally. [MORE]

UPP-COMING / MARK THE CALENDAR || Innovation Symposium - Planning Through Friction. **Keynote Christy Coleman, CEO, The American Civil War Museum - How Should We Remember: Monuments in Public Spaces**; if missed it, look for it on CAN-TV [MORE]
UPP is a productive place. Research projects are executed through one of the six College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA) research centers, with total funds in excess of $5 million. The recent faculty output includes over 30 journal articles, 6 books (including Professor Weber’s UAA awarded book From Boom to Bubble), 11 book chapters, over 50 conference presentations / papers and numerous reports. Professor Kazuya Kawamura received the Best Paper Award from the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Urban Freight Transportation Committee for a paper titled Logistics Chain Modeling for Urban Freight: Pairing Truck Trip Ends With Logistics Facilities, co-authored with his former PhD student Dr. Takanori Sakai and Tetsuro Hyodo.
Natalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement has released a number of reports including *The Impact of Minimum Wage Increase on Housing Affordability in Illinois: The Trajectory and Impact of Ongoing Gentrification in Pilsen* (co-authored by Professor John Betancur and PhD student Youngjun Kim); and *Sizing Up Our Region’s Green Economy*. The last one was published by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) University Center at UIC, as one output in a five-year initiative to help the university stimulate and develop Chicago’s green economy, particularly in Calumet and south Cook County.

Dr. Sanjeev Vidyarthi’s new book on Indian spatial planning and development received an international recognition during a ceremony in Delhi. India’s national planning leadership, Delhi’s Lt. Governor and other dignitaries launched his co-edited volume *Understanding India’s New Approach to Spatial Planning and Development* (Oxford University Press, 2017) in the valedictory session of an international conference organized by the Institute of Town Planners India to celebrate 65 years of its founding.

The UPP faculty, students and alumni are frequently approached for their comments on a range of urban issues and current affairs of the local, national and international scope. There have been over 50 media appearances on TV, radio and newspapers in 2017.

Professor Nik Theodore’s report *After the Storm: Houston’s Day Labor Markets in the Aftermath of Hurricane Harvey*, funded by the Ford Foundation and published by The Great Cities Institute (GCI) received a wide media attention. GCI, directed by Professor Teresa Córdova published, produced several other timely reports on neighborhood issues, housing market and youth unemployment in Chicago. A report *The Latino Neighborhoods Report: Issues and Prospects for Chicago* written by the master’s student José Acosta-Córdova deserves a special mentioning. The report was commissioned by the Metropolitan Family Services to the GCI and the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy (IRRPP). It was a unique and exceptional example of a major research responsibility to be offered to a student, whose product received a wide attention and coverage in the media, including the Chicago Magazine.
**Professor Janet Smith**, who heads the Nathalie P. Voorhees Center for Neighborhood and Community Improvement and the U.S. Economic Development Administration’s (EDA) University Center was featured in the Civic Chat on networking Chicago’s neighborhoods and on WTTW Chicago Tonight program on the growth of Chicago’s green economy. Watch here on YouTube.

**Dr. Ning Ai** took part in a live panel discussion on electric vehicle battery recycling. The panel was aired on all-English 'World Insight' program on the China Global Television Network (CGTN), the central TV channel in China (equivalent to CNN or NBC in the USA). Besides Dr. Ai, the panel included Ms. Isabel Hilton, Founder and Editor of ChinaDialogue (London) and Professor Baocheng Liu, Dean of the Center for International Business Ethics from the University of International Business and Economics (Beijing). Watch here on YouTube.

**PROFESSIONAL INTERFACES**

**APA & IL APA || Dr. Ning Ai** published an APA’s Planning Advisory Service (PAS) report on Planning for Sustainable Material and Waste Management, inaugurated during the National Conference in New York.

The APA Latinos and Planning Newsletter featured information on the UPP student organization the Latino Planning Organization for Development, Education and Regeneration (LPODER).
The interactions with the American Planning Association (APA) and its Illinois (IL APA) chapter take many forms and the links have been particularly active in 2017. APA National Conference in New York was attended by about 30 masters students who also had the opportunity to attend a joint reception with IL APA and the UIUC.

APA awarded Dr. Moira Zellner, Director of the Urban Data Visualization Lab (UDVL), with the inaugural Academic Technology Innovator Award for her participatory tool for green infrastructure and storm water management.
MUPP ’17 Michael Sewall received Illinois APA’s Student Project Award; Katanya Raby-Henry was given the recognition of an Emerging Planner.

PLANNING FOR EQUITY || A Diversity Panel was organized by the APA-IL Diversity Committee in partnership with the APA Chicago Metro Section, the UIC CUPPA Alumni Association, and the UIC Urban Planning and Policy Student Organization (UPPSA). It focused on the challenges and best practices for planning in communities of color and communities struggling with disinvestment.
STUDIOS || The professional interaction opportunities are best located in studio settings which work with real projects and clients. The Plan-Making Studio – the staple of the MUPP curriculum – dealt with the extension of Chicago’s metro (‘L’) Red Line and the development around 5 proposed stations. The Spatial Planning Studio, led by Professor Khier Al-Kodmany, took Chicago’s Bridgeport district and proposed ways to revitalize this traditionally working-class neighborhood and industrial area. The UIC team worked alongside with the UIUC architecture, landscape architecture and planning students. Dr. Stacey Sutton’s class on Sharing Economy engaged her students with the Austin Coming Together non-profit organization to produce a feasibility study for the Austin community food cooperative. UPP adjuncts and city of Chicago planners Gerardo Garcia and Nathen Roseberry guided the Complete Streets Studio which focused on evaluating a portion of Chicago’s Division Street corridor and identifying the ways to improve the balance among transportation users. Also, the students prepared a hypothetical proposal to the Department of Transportation.
EXPOSURE || Being situated in Chicago – a global metropolis with plenty of local flair(s) – allows the Departmental members to experience it and delve into it with their educational, research and service energy. The main beneficiaries are the students who are afforded many internship, project and activism opportunities. Occasionally, as is the case with the Society of Black Urban Planners (SBUP), the students are engaged in educational activities themselves. SBUP has organized an afterschool introduction to planning course Exposure, delivered to high school students in Bronzeville, a traditionally African-American neighborhood in south Chicago.

WEST TOWN BIKES || LPODER student organization and the Great Cities Institute hosted a session with youth from West Town Bikes to present on their Bicycle Planning Project.
PUERTO RICO || Responding to another disaster, this time inflicted by nature, LPODER organized several conversations about the situation in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria. One of the sessions included Dr. Ivis Garcia Zambrana, UPP's alumna who is currently an assistant professor at the University of Utah and an associate of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies.

SERVICE TRIP (FLINT, MICHIGAN) || Expanding their service reach outside the Chicago region, UPPSA and SBUP student members went to Flint, Michigan, to come to an aid amidst its water supply crisis.
The faculty has been equally active in the domestic and international arena. Internationally keynote addresses were delivered in The Netherlands by Professor Janet Smith; South Africa by Professor David Perry, and Brazil by Professor John Betancur. Dr. Sanjeev Vidyarthi’s book was recognized and honored in Delhi, India; Professor Zorica Nedović-Budić was invited to the Regional Development Conference organized by the Montenegrin Chamber of Commerce and the Academy of Sciences in Bečići, Montenegro; Dr. Moira Zellner has been appointed as a spokesperson for Buenos Aires in Chicago. The faculty’s global links are affirmed during the faculty sabbatical leaves and visits -- Prof. Betancur’s in Colombia; Dr. Curt Winkle’s in Sydney, Australia; Dr. Brenda Parker’s and Professor Rachel Weber’s in Spain; and Professor Janet Smith’s summer school at Lucerne University, Switzerland and a course offering at Catholic University, Santiago de Chile. Professor Nik Theodore continued his research on labor economics and migration issues while attending to various commitments as the chief editor of the Antipode journal, the principal investigator on projects with the James Irvine Foundation, Funders for a Just Economy, and the Ford Foundation, and speaking engagements including the Understanding Urbanism Today seminar series at University of Malmo, Sweden.

In 2016-17 academic year Professor Weber was a visiting researcher in the Sociology Department in the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Barcelona (UB). At the UB, she was associated with a research group called Creativitat, Innovació i Transformació Urbana (Center for Creativity, Innovation, and Urban Transformation - CRIT). She co-organized a transnational workshop on Post-Crisis Urban Futures: Barcelona and Chicago with the Area Metropolitana de Barcelona (the regional government of Barcelona). The two-day workshop featured 25 speakers from Chicago and Barcelona, including former Chicago mayoral candidate (and UIC MUPP alumnus), Jesus “Chuy” Garcia as well as three other faculty from UIC. Professor Weber’s visit helped solidify a relationship that started before her sabbatical leave with a formal exchange agreement between UIC and the University of Barcelona.
The Department has a long-standing relationship with the University College Dublin in Ireland, School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy (APEP) primarily through the exchange of graduate students. Ben Sereda, MUPP ‘17, spent the academic year 2016-17 and came back with many impressions to share. Plan-making studio and the annual dinner with the President of the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) were the most memorable.

CONVERSATIONS

There are plenty of good and constructive discussions in and around UPP

The Public Infrastructure of Work and Play addressed the importance of both ‘hard’ and ‘soft’ infrastructure for enhancing the economic development potential of cities as well as improving their quality of life. Whether by shaping and molding the cityscape and the growth patterns of a city or by providing places for play, relaxation, and quiet contemplation, public infrastructure affects city life and connects residents, neighborhoods and businesses. As such, the planning of the built environment is fraught with political pulls and tugs about what ought to be the physical and emotional feel of the city of the future, what constitutes the ideal place where people’s work and play meet, what sits at the intersection of art, politics, and markets. The Forum was opened by the renowned architect and urban designer Carol Ross Barney.
GIS DAY || Another major event of the year was the GIS Day celebrated with a day-long program set up by the Urban Data Visualization Lab (UDVL). About 100 attendees could learn about the latest analytical, visualization and collaboration tools and participate in several hands-on training sessions in the UIC Library.
URBAN INNOVATION SYMPOSIUM || The Urban Planning and Policy Student Association (UPPSA) continued its annual tradition with the 7th Urban Innovation Symposium Networked for Good. The Symposium’s Smart Cities keynote was Ms. Brenna Berman, Innovation & Technology Commissioner of the City of Chicago. Building on the keynote, the attendees engaged with the panels on technology and transit, water for the region, smart housing and ‘hack to the future’ session held in the National Museum of Mexican Art.
WIM WIEVEL LECTURE || After this excellent start of the year, several major events were organized by the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA) including the Wim Wievel Lecture in Urban and Economic Development delivered by Amy Liu, Vice President and Director of the Metropolitan Policy Program in the Brookings. VP Liu explained how traditional economic development strategies fall short, outlined five principles of a new, broader vision of economic development, and shared examples of promising innovations.

PEOPLE

OUTGOING || (WELL, NOT REALLY…) Prof. Charlie Hoch’s retirement event included a conversation with Professor Bish Sanyal (MIT) and Professor Niraj Verma (VCU) and Mr. Mark Angelini of Mercy Housing – Chicago. The recounts focused on Professor Hoch’s contributions to planning field, the pragmatist tradition as well as the mark he left on the Chicago’s planning community. A timely inclusion of his chapter in the Encounters of Planning Thought – 16 Autobiographical Essays from Key Thinkers in Spatial Planning (Routledge, 2017) and a PAB’s award for contributions as the accreditation reviewer and site visitor. Aside from the formal retirement, Prof. Hoch’s work is not finished yet – so stay tuned.

This photo was taken in October (post-retirement!) during the 2017 ACSP conference in Denver where Prof. Hoch joined up with his co-thinkers and planning theorists Professor Lew Hopkins and Professor John Forester.
INCOMING || In 2017 the Department saw a leadership change with Prof. Zorica Nedović-Budić who joined UIC, following her 15 years as a faculty at the University of Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign and a 7-year stint at the University College Dublin (UCD) where her school hosted a joint event between the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) and the North American Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) - the 5th Joint AESOP-ACSP Congress. It was Illinois’ calling, although the links with Europe remain high on Prof. Nedović-Budić’s and the Departmental agenda. She serves on the AESOP’s Executive Committee and on the ACSP’s task force for trans-Atlantic links and invites you to join AESOP 2018 Congress in Gothenburg, Sweden. She is also one of three co-chairs of the World Planning Schools Congress 2021 (WPSC ‘21).

DISTINGUISHED || Shelley Davis, MUPP ’98 was the alumna of the year. She was presented the Jim Marek Alumni Appreciation Award by the CUPPA Alumni Association’s Board of Directors. The Award recognizes individuals or groups for their dedication to the fields of urban planning and public administration and their contributions to the development of the college’s students and alumni. Shelley’s dedication and contributions to education, administration, and the community sector throughout the region make her an incredibly well-deserving recipient. Since graduating from CUPPA, Shelley Davis has led an impressive career involving philanthropy, direct service, and advocacy. She has held the positions of vice president of programs and advocacy at the Chicago Foundation for Women, and national adviser at the Women’s Initiative for Self-Employment. Shelley began her current position with the Forest Preserve Foundation in 2013 as their first Executive Director. Additionally, she is a lecturer and senior mentor at the University of Chicago’s Harris School of Public Policy, and serves on the Illinois Commission on Juvenile Justice, is the chair of the Board of the Albert Pick Jr. Fund, and as a member of the Board of Trustees of Lawrence University.
VISITING || Dr. Mufid Quassoum, Vice President for International Relations at the Arab American University Jenin (AAUJ), West Bank, Palestine is spending his sabbatical year with the Department. He recently published a co-edited volume Conflict Transformation and the Palestinians: The Dynamics of Peace and Justice Under Occupation (with Alpaslan Ozerdem and Chuck Thiessen, Routledge, 2016). He is collaborating with Professor John Betancur on spatial and regional development issues in Israel-Palestine conflict areas.

STUDENT SCHOLARS || MUPP student Maux Sullivan has attracted several scholarships, including U.S. Department of Transportation’s Dwight David Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship (DDETFP) which advances the transportation workforce by helping to attract the nation’s brightest minds; WTS (Women in Transportation) Leadership Legacy Scholarship; and Valerie J. McCall scholarship through the American Public Transportation Foundation. For Maux, 2017 was under the ‘when it rains it pours’ motto. Matteo Vanella, MUPP student, won the 2017 UIC’s Laurette Kirstein Scholarship. Matteo is one of the six scholarship winners chosen by a panel of judges from an extremely competitive applicant pool. The group represent five different countries and academic disciplines from across the University. While diverse in background, each winner demonstrated a strong commitment to academic excellence and a desire to use their education for positive social change. MUPP ’17 alumnu Alvaro Villagran, Chair of Young Professionals in Transportation has received APA’s Transportation Division small grant to fund the first Chicago Transportation Camp.

FULBRIGHT || The Department’s international student group is diverse and from afar. This year Blagovest Blagoev came on a Fulbright Scholarship from Bulgaria to pursue the master’s degree in Chicago.
UPP-COMING / MARK THE CALENDAR

February 9: Urban Innovation Symposium: Planning Through Friction, UPPSA

Keynote: Christy Coleman, CEO, The American Civil War Museum: How Should We Remember -- Monuments in Public Spaces. If you missed it, look for it on CAN-TV.

March 2: Commemoration - Release of the Kerner Commission Report: Fifty Years Later, Great Cities Institute (GCI)

REGISTER HERE


September 24-26: International Public Participation Conference, Prof. Janet Smith in collaboration with the University of Lucerne

UPP is looking forward to seeing you at various events at UIC, around Chicago, across the US and internationally. Meanwhile we will share UPP happenings via:

URL: https://cuppa.uic.edu/academics/upp/

https://www.facebook.com/UICUPP

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