

Planning Utah

University of Utah Department of City and Metropolitan Planning

2022



City and
Metropolitan
Planning

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*Wasatch Transportation
Academy participants*

Message from the Chair

I am delighted to share a snapshot of what we have been up to this past academic year. As

you read this newsletter, note the impressive range of work from the faculty and students.

I'd like to thank all the department faculty and staff for their dedication to implementing our 2018-2023 strategic plan. We identified four strategic goals in 2018: 1) align the curriculum with the department's vision, mission, and values; 2) grow and diversify across all academic programs; 3) increase the number of relationships and level of engagement with alumni and local professionals; and 4) increase the visibility of the department faculty, students, and alumni. We still have another year left; however, as I shared in the recent Dean's Council, we have already gone beyond what we anticipated we could do in five years. Our academic programs are thriving, our student numbers are up, we are more diverse, and the word is getting out that our department is vibrant and committed to planning in Utah.

We attribute many of our successes to our adjunct faculty who help us develop new courses and teach with us part-time (in addition to having a day job). "Our students point to the real-time practice experiences as a department strength." Much gratitude to **Patrick Putt** and **Thomas Eddington** (Planning Theory and Practice), **Vellachi Ganesan** (Lightscares), **Tom Millar** (Walking and Biking Planning & Design), **Ted Knowlton** (Introduction to

Transportation Planning), **Jordan Katcher** (Urban Ecology in Action), **Andi Witzak** (Ecological Planning Workshop), **Benjamin Hart** (City & Metropolitan Economics), **Matt Wheelwright** (Urban Design Methods), **Molly Robinson** (Urban Design Studio, Urban Design Fundamentals, Visual & Oral Communication), **Ryan Wallace** (Urban Design Studio), **Dejan Eskic** and **Josh Green** (Real Estate Market Analysis), **Michael Maloy** and **Mark McGrath** (City in Literature), **Juliette Stewart** (Economy of Cities), **Kate Magargal** (Nightscapes), **Daniel Mendoza** (Dark Sky Capstone), **Whitney Ward** (Site Planning, Sustainability Planning), **Brad Potter** (GIS), **Bruce Parker** (Graduate Workshop), **Eric Robinson** and **Lance Dunkley** (Real Estate Development Due Diligence), **Mark Morris** (Urban Design Principles), and **Shaleane Gee** and **Corinne Piazza** (Public-Private Partnership).

Finally, much appreciation to MCMP students **Jacob Klopfenstein** and **Rachel Stein**, who worked with me to put this newsletter together over the summer. Both are fabulous researchers and writers, and it was a real pleasure to reflect with them about the department's accomplishments and aspirations.

Sincerely,



Stacy Harwood

Professor and Chair

Department of City & Metropolitan Planning



Stacy Harwood

Students Engaging Utah



Isabel Fuller

Urban Ecology Honors Student: Isabel Fuller

I recently graduated with honors degrees in Urban Ecology and Environmental & Sustainability Studies. As an honors student, I had many formative experiences outside of typical coursework: I participated in a living learning community, studied abroad in Argentina, worked as an RA for the Honors Thesis Mentoring Community, and served as the chair for the Honors Student Advisory Committee. In culmination of these experiences and what I did in CMP, I wrote an honors thesis under the mentorship of Clinical Associate Professor **Sarah Hinners**: “Impact of ‘Landscape Lab’ Green Infrastructure on Red Butte Creek Hydrologic Patterns.” I first heard about the Landscape Lab during a guest lecture from Dr. Hinners in an introductory environmental studies course in 2019, and I stayed after class to see how I could get involved. The Landscape Lab was completed in 2020, and it is a green stormwater infrastructure project on the University of Utah campus. Using precipitation and flow data from the Wasatch Environmental Observatory (WEO), I generated hydrographs and calculated runoff efficiency to understand its impact on stormwater runoff in the Red Butte Creek watershed. The research found that the Landscape Lab is achieving some of its stated objectives and shows that green stormwater infrastructure can be effective in semi-arid climates.



Field Studies in Urban Ecology

Urban Ecology Students Learn Field Studies

A pair of urban ecology courses helped undergraduates learn about different types of research. In the Field Studies in Urban Ecology I course, taught by Assistant Professor **Andy Hong**, students learned about quantitative research, developing research questions and hypotheses, collecting data, and writing a formal research paper from their findings. Students learned not only how to conduct a research study, but also how to draw conclusions and communicate relationships observed in the data they collected in a meaningful way. The Field Studies in Urban Ecology II course, taught by Visiting Assistant Professor **Carolina Gómez-Navarro**, challenged students to research an urban ecology topic and then tell a story from that research — all in the form of a multimedia video or podcast. Students learned about qualitative research methods and conducted interviews, surveys and focus groups to integrate their research into their videos and podcasts and tell a compelling story about their topics. Research topics included air quality, transportation, light pollution, community cohesion, biodiversity, urban heat islands, and the value of outdoor spaces. “It was empowering to realize I could turn mere curiosity into research questions and seek out the answers myself,” says student **Lucas Horns**. “In both Field Studies I and II, professors Andy Hong and Carolina Gomez-Navarro had a clear passion for research that made the courses interesting and fun!” **Chimalli Hernandez** integrated coursework and concepts into a final audio presentation during his time in Field Studies II. “Through my qualitative research I was able to connect with experts in biology and planning. I am grateful for the guidance I was provided. The skills gained within this course have stuck with me and are still in use within my professional life.”

Dark Sky Studies Minor

In 2015, the International Dark Sky Community identified Torrey as first “Dark Sky” town in Utah. Since then, Torrey has continued the efforts to reduce light pollution and maintain their beautiful dark skies. In 2022, the U of Utah Dark Sky Studies students partnered with the Entrada Institute to support Torrey’s efforts. The Dark Skies Studies program at the U furthers student understanding of how light pollution can affect our environments, and students can minor in the subject to get a more transdisciplinary view of the contributing factors to sky conditions. Adjunct Instructor **Kate Magargal**’s CMP3851, Nightscapes course not only covered many ways of thinking about our night skies but also featured a successful fieldwork experience in Torrey. Students got the opportunity to work with the community of Torrey in finding effective strategies to mitigate light pollution. Magargal reflects that organizing fieldwork “is challenging, but it is also the most enjoyable part of teaching the class because the level of student engagement goes up; people become more curious and focused. The classroom is a great place to imagine things and learn in the abstract, but fieldwork is where students can really practice and experience things.” While it can be easy to feel disconnected from our actions, Magargal hopes that engagement opportunities like this will help give people a better understanding of how their individual actions affect our environment.

BA/BS Urban Ecology + Master of City & Metropolitan Planning (4+1)

This year marks the first official graduating 4+1 program. Students enrolled in this program can complete both a bachelor’s in Urban Ecology and a Master of City and Metropolitan Planning over the course of five years. The Department of City and Metropolitan Planning has found that the combination of these curriculums can be beneficial for those seeking a well-rounded education and experience with planning for sustainability in growing urban and rural communities. These graduates have shown incredible resilience and passion for their work, and we look forward to seeing how they continue in their careers.

Clint Campbell, 4+1 ’21, reflects on his experience: “The 4+1 program streamlined the education process for me and allowed



Community meeting at the Entrada Institute



Observing the night sky in Torrey

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Students Engaging Utah

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me to keep the momentum from my undergraduate degree into finishing my master's degree. My favorite course was Negotiation & Dispute Resolution. Make sure you keep in touch with other master's students — students are going through a lot of different things during grad school; making sure that you have people to talk with is amazing and everyone is so amazing about helping each other!" Clint will continue working at his job with Utah Transit Authority, which fuels his passion in connecting active transportation and transit to the community.



End of the year celebration

Sophie Bellina, 4+1 '21, shares: "I knew I wanted to get a master's degree in the future. Even though I was almost done with my undergraduate degree by the time the CMP's 4+1 program launched, I decided to apply and add another year of studying so I could leave the U with two degrees in my hands. My favorite class was Connecting Communities to Water, a special topic studying abroad class where we spent fall break in Mexico City learning about sustainable urban design practices. Other favorite classes include The Just City taught by Associate Professor **Sarah Canham** and Introduction to Transportation Planning taught by Adjunct Instructor **Ted Knowlton**. After graduation, I will be working as a planner for Township + Range, a small Salt Lake City-based transportation and community design firm. I met my boss in an undergraduate internship class and was an intern at T+R for over a year before joining the firm full-time."

Master of City & Metropolitan Planning

Every spring, the second year MCMP students present their Professional Projects to reveal the hard work they have been doing over the past year. While there is a wide range of project types, each one reflects the lessons learned during time spent in the MCMP program from data analytics to community engagement to graphic representations. The Best Project this past semester was **Marly Kapacinskas** and **Sophie Frankenburg**'s "Summit County Rail Trail Corridor Plan." They collaborated with the Summit County planning staff, including U of U alumnus **Maddy McDonough** (who is also featured in our alumni section!). Their plan strongly correlates with the community values to improve the environment surrounding the trail and make it more accessible to users. The high levels of analysis and outreach demonstrated in this project strongly support values of the MCMP program and reveal true understanding of the needs within the Summit County population. Professional Projects are a great step for emerging planners because they often involve real clients of the Salt Lake Valley. Partners this past year included the Utah Division of Multicultural Affairs, Wasatch Front Regional Council, the SLC Redevelopment Agency, and many more. Working with these clients opens many opportunities for our students, including work experience, skill development, professional mentorship, and especially job opportunities.



*Sophie Frankenburg and
Marly Kapacinskas*

PhD in Metropolitan Planning, Policy and Design

One PhD student successfully defended his dissertation this academic year: **Keuntae Kim** (advisor Professor **Reid Ewing**). At the time we put this newsletter together we had a few very close to the finish line (you will read about them next year). Congratulations to all who received fellowships and grants!



Keuntae Kim

Keuntae Kim successfully defended his dissertation, “Fixed-Guideway Transit and Business Dynamics: Analyzing Locational Business Patterns Near Fixed-Guideway Transit Stations in the U.S.,” this year. Keuntae’s dissertation examined businesses in 202 metropolitan statistical areas between 2000 and 2018, then analyzed how transit developments affected the success rates of businesses in the MSAs. His project also examined the change in intensity of new businesses near transit developments during the COVID-19 pandemic. Keuntae concluded that good access to fixed-guideway transit contributes significantly to maintaining and improving dynamics of nearby businesses, including reducing the risk of business failure, clustering businesses for agglomeration economies, and improving business resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic. He will start a postdoctoral position in the Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development (CQGRD) at Georgia Tech (Atlanta) this fall.



Wookjae Yang

Wookjae Yang received a University of Utah Graduate Research Fellowship for his research, “Shared Mobility and Equitable Communities: Accessible, Affordable, and Safe for Everyone.” His research will focus on how new technologies in mobility, such as shared mobility, micro-mobility and rideshares, will affect equity of cities. Through data collection and analysis, Wookjae will primarily seek to answer questions on how these technologies affect affordability, accessibility, and safety and health for cities.



Sua Kim

Sua Kim and **Sayma Khajehei** were awarded UC3 (University Climate Change Coalition) Fellowships for the 2021-2022 year. UC3 is a core program of Second Nature that connects 25 of the world’s leading research universities and university systems committed to accelerating climate action on campus, in communities, and at a global scale. Sua and Sayma represent the University of Utah with two other fellows. The program awards fellowships for climate action planning related to universities and provides Sua and Sayma with summer funding. Sua’s research focuses on local economic resilience, and Sayma’s research focuses on the housing resilience of residents of public housing projects.



Hassan Ameli

Hassan Ameli was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the National Institute for Transportation and Communities’ Dissertation Fellowship program. Hassan’s research, “Toward Automating the Measurement of Urban Design Qualities Related to Walkability,” consists of two studies that explore the applications of artificial intelligence and computer vision (deep learning) to automate the resource-intensive field observation required for street-level analysis of the built environment.

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Students Engaging Utah

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Sayma Khajehei

Sayma Khajehei was awarded a \$48,000 Natural Hazards Center Grant for research titled “Community-Based Organizations in Public Housing Resident Recovery in Puerto Rico.” Sayma’s research will focus on the opportunities and challenges of community-based organizations in Puerto Rico as they relate to public housing residents who depend on them. Findings will help policymakers better understand and engage these organizations in the process of recovering public housing after multiple natural disasters affected the region.



Kevin Fagundo-Ojeda

Kevin Fagundo-Ojeda was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Natural Hazards Center for his research project, “Psychosocial Needs of Women in Puerto Rico: Service Delivery after Consecutive Disasters.” Through interviews and surveys, the effort will study the needs of breast cancer patients in southwest Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria, the 2020 earthquakes and the COVID-19 pandemic caused a collapse of the region’s healthcare system.



Tasnim Isaba

Tasnim Isaba received a Latin America Studies travel award for her research project, “Stakeholder Interdependencies in Post-Disaster Relocation under High Uncertainty in Puerto Rico.” Her research will examine the communities of Loíza and Comerío in Puerto Rico, which are likely to experience a large-scale relocation because of the 2017 hurricanes Maria and Irma. Tasnim’s research will investigate the resources businesses use to make decisions about relocation, the relationships between business and household relocation decisions, and how business relocation decisions are dependent on actions of nonprofits and volunteer groups.



Sua Kim

Sua Kim was awarded a Global Change & Sustainability Center research fund of \$2,970 in fall 2021 for a local business recovery survey in Salt Lake City. This fund was used for survey data collections about how small businesses recover from COVID-19 and the 2020 Magna earthquake. This will be her dissertation piece. Sua also joined the AAPI COVID-19 research team housed at Harvard University’s Department of Sociology. The project examines the ongoing COVID-19 crisis as it continues to shape the lives of Asians, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (A/AAs and NHPIs). Sua will conduct interviews with Asian-Americans who own businesses in New York City to examine their social capital toward disaster recovery.

Faculty Engaging Utah

New Course: Zoning for Equity

CMP offered a new course called Zoning for Equity taught by Associate Professor **Ivis Garcia**. Zoning for Equity explored the history of exclusionary zoning and examined how the practice has shaped the development of cities. Exclusionary zoning policies have contributed to racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic segregation and have also damaged the environment, housing affordability, and national economic productivity. Students also researched alternatives to exclusionary zoning, proposed anti-displacement strategies that might counter its adverse effects, and studied cases in other U.S. cities that have implemented alternative zoning practices. The course was the first attempt to coordinate learning on these topics among multiple urban planning schools, as seven universities — Utah, Ohio State University, Florida State University, UCLA, University of Illinois, University of Minnesota, and University of North Carolina — taught the course together. The coursework culminated in a 123-page report titled “Not Just a Unit: The Inequities of ‘Home,’” which examined the history of who has called Salt Lake City “home” — from Native Americans to Latter-day Saint pioneers to modern residents. Students analyzed current demographics through that context and formulated anti-displacement strategies that the city could pursue in the future, including just cause evictions, tenants’ right to counsel, right to return and many more. The report also informed work for students in the Plan Making course during the spring semester that integrated with Salt Lake City’s gentrification and displacement study, “Thriving in Place.” “The Zoning for Equity course examined how racist policies throughout American history have affected development, growth patterns, and planning in the United States. Through this lens, we learned how these practices contributed to the disparity of wealth and physical segregation between the white population and populations of color throughout the country,” said student **Kristin Reidelberger**. “The class was shared and taught by seven universities throughout the country, and we heard lectures from each of the professors, had group discussions with the other university students, and produced and reviewed equity-focused plans from each university. I appreciated learning about the ways in which we are still living in the towns, cities, and society that were built with discriminatory intent, and how, by not actively promoting equity in our policies, we are perpetuating these issues.” *Professor Garcia left the department in August 2022 for a very exciting position at Texas A&M University. We wish her well and look forward to offering this course again in the future.*

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Faculty Engaging Utah

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New Workshop: Big Data in Transportation

The Big Data in Transportation course taught by Assistant Professor **Andy Hong** applies big data processing and analysis to real situations within the Salt Lake Valley. The Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) and the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) challenged students to examine the potential for increasing active transportation for utilitarian and recreational trips. Students closely analyzed data from Strava, an app that tracks the user's physical exercise. Strava recently released its data to the public, but it still faces challenges in interpretation. To create a comprehensive workflow for the project, students crafted a practitioner survey to see how other organizations have used Strava, composed a systematic literature review of existing methods of interpreting the data, and finally completed their own validation and modeling with Strava data. Bike data from Strava was specifically analyzed and compared to actual bike counts within the Salt Lake Valley, which came from physical counters in 12 locations. The analysis revealed that Strava data can be very helpful in active transportation planning in the Salt Lake Valley due to the high number of Strava users in Salt Lake and the geographic coverage the app offers. Currently, physical counters are limited in location, so being able to access and analyze this Strava data can provide information at a larger scale. Many planning departments are still trying to understand how to leverage big data to support decision making in transportation planning. **Delaney Sillman**, one of the students from the workshop course, concluded in the final presentation that the "methods used in [the] analysis can potentially guide those with limited modeling experience," which will in turn allow for more comprehensive transportation planning. Courses like this will be key in fostering skilled and well-rounded planners who will have a wide scope of resources to utilize in their careers.



Andy Hong



Keith Bartholomew

Wasatch Transportation Academy Launched

Professor **Keith Bartholomew** organized the first-ever Wasatch Transportation Academy. Made possible with funding from the National Institute for Transportation and Communities, the program engaged 49 community members from outside the College of Architecture and Planning to teach people the basics of transportation and help them learn more about transportation systems across the Wasatch Front and their impact on communities. CMP Associate Dean Keith Bartholomew and Portland State University Research Associate Nate McNeil were the lead researchers for the course, while MCMP student **Matthew Ryan** was the TA. Participants also met transportation professionals from various agencies and learned about their roles and responsibilities. Students completed 18

final presentations on transportation projects, and the eight-week course culminated in a field trip to a transportation project. Students ventured out to State Street, an arterial state highway in the Salt Lake Valley, to discuss how the road will be modified in an upcoming redesign. Students discussed midblock crossings, bus bulb-outs, and placemaking within a two-block stretch of State Street. “The Wasatch Transportation Academy is a great addition to our state,” says **Laura Hanson**, state planning and infrastructure coordinator for the Utah Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget. “As government planners, there is nothing more frustrating than to solicit public engagement, but not receive any, and then to have people upset about the decision. This program teaches residents how transportation decisions are made, and most importantly, when and how the public can participate in those processes. Graduates from this program are better prepared to identify transportation challenges and opportunities and engage effectively in shaping the future of their communities.”

National Grant Success

Associate Professor **Divya Chandrasekhar** recently won two research grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Her project titled “Collaborative Research: Stakeholder Interdependencies in Post-Disaster Relocation under High Uncertainty” aims to uncover the decision making behind relocation for households and businesses, and how the two may be related. The study will follow two rural Puerto Rican communities as they navigate the aftermath of hurricanes Irma and Maria as well as the current political unrest and uncertainty. Divya’s other grant, “SCC-PG: Online Role-Playing Games for Improving Multi-Stakeholders Collaboration in Concurrent Disaster Response Planning,” uses such insights into community-level decision making to improve disaster response planning in Utah. In collaboration with other Utah researchers in computer science, electrical engineering, atmospheric sciences and public health as well as local agencies, the study develops AI-based emergency management training tools that would result in more equity-based and scientifically informed responses for simultaneously occurring disasters. Both projects reflect the admirable work that Divya has done to analyze and mitigate disaster impacts through a planner’s lens. She is a member of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission, the Utah State Hazard Mitigation Team, and the Resilient America Roundtable of the National Academies. Her previous work has also been funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Transportation and Communities, the Department of the Interior, and the Natural Hazards Center at Boulder. We are excited to see how Divya’s current projects will progress!



Divya Chandrasekhar

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Faculty Engaging Utah

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Equity in Transit to Trails Research in Utah

Assistant Professor **Alessandro Rigolon**'s research focuses on environmental equity and planning for green spaces, but his recent project "Transit to Trails" also takes public transit and accessibility into consideration. Thanks to funding from the Utah Transit Authority, he and his team analyzed public transit routes to trailheads and parks larger than 20 acres to reveal what current challenges and opportunities the system faces in providing access to green spaces on the Wasatch Front. These maps were then overlaid with the Wasatch Front Regional Council's Equity Focus Areas, which experience disadvantages based on race, income, educational attainment, and vehicle ownership. These resulting maps show where poor access to transit and highly disadvantaged communities overlap, and they can help identify possible changes to the UTA system to increase equitable access to green space via transit. As part of this research, Dr. Rigolon's team also conducted interviews with a diverse demographic of avid transit users on the Wasatch Front. This analysis helped reveal some of the barriers to taking transit for recreational opportunities. For example, regular transit users were less likely to take public transit to trails because of the often-unreliable system and general lack of transit targeted to recreational areas. People also expressed concerns for their safety, including the need to cross major streets, a lack of sidewalks, and a lack of information on how to reach trailheads from transit stops. Similarly concerning were responses pointing out the valley's lack of routes from the west to east side. Trail systems along the foothills reveal a harsh discrepancy: some neighborhoods have great, even walkable access to trails, while individuals on the west side of the valley have a complete lack of access. The final part of the study dove into what other transit agencies have done to facilitate access to the great outdoors via transit. Based on an extensive search, Dr. Rigolon's team identified 50 "transit to parks" and "transit to trails" initiatives, especially in cities that share Salt Lake's proximity to outdoor recreation opportunities, such as Boulder and San Francisco. The initiatives were classified into four main groups: informational campaigns, seasonal shuttles, permanent route adjustments, and systemwide plans. These initiatives have often sought to mitigate traffic and improve equitable access, though NIMBY-ism and weak infrastructure still pose many challenges. Previous UTA incentives, like Free Fare February, saw a huge increase in ridership for recreational purposes, including a more than 200% rise in FrontRunner ridership on Saturdays. We are grateful to have Alessandro on our team, where he has been vital in communicating the challenges and opportunities facing equitable access to valuable green spaces.



Alessandro Rigolon

Alumni News

**We would love to feature alumni news in future newsletters and on our website.
Please share your news with us at plan@arch.utah.edu.**

Philip Stoker, PhD '15, has been working with Clinical Associate Professor **Danya Rumore** on research projects associated with the Gateway and Natural Amenity Region (GNAR) Initiative, a collaboration among university faculty, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community leaders that promotes research and education to advance solutions to planning, development, and public policy challenges in small communities near natural amenities in the western U.S. This year, Philip was promoted to Associate Professor of Urban Planning and Landscape Architecture at the University of Arizona. In January, he was featured in an NPR Morning Edition piece about the phenomenon of “Zoom towns” — communities where remote workers have migrated from larger cities and bought homes. “People who have jobs in larger cities that have higher incomes, and if they can work remotely, they can live in these rural communities and still be able to work, assuming there’s the infrastructure for that, and then they’ll just have more money and higher buying power in the housing market,” Philip told NPR. “These are big-city problems, but it’s just they’re being experienced in rural communities because they’re attracting people.”



Philip Stoker

Maddy McDonough, MCMP '21, now works as a planner in Summit County, Utah. Maddy is managing a project focusing on the Historic Union Pacific Rail Trail State Park, a 28-mile multi-use trail along a former railroad line that stretches from Park City to Echo Reservoir. Summit County officials want to enhance the trail, introducing arts, culture, and tourism elements alongside it to create what they’re calling “The Rail Trail Corridor.” The county is creating a master plan for the trail, which includes goals to better connect Snyderville Basin to eastern Summit County, provide opportunities for local economic growth, celebrate the area’s culture and history, and protect and revitalize natural resources nearby. “We want to consider how this [corridor] should be used so that development can be centered around adequate infrastructure and then open space can be maintained and protected as needed,” Maddy told the *Park Record* newspaper. She added that some of the historic and cultural amenities along the trail are in danger of being lost if planners and county officials aren’t intentional about working to preserve them. MCMP 2022 graduates **Sophie Frankenburg** and **Marly Kapacinskas** earned the Best Professional Project Award for their work on the Summit County Rail Trail. This is an ongoing project; details about how to get involved can be found at <https://railtrailsummit.weebly.com/>.



*Summit County Rail Trail,
Photo by Marly Kapacinskas*

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Alumni News

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Brandon Siracuse

Brandon Siracuse, MCMP '21, now works as a city planner for Council Bluffs, Iowa. Brandon is currently working to reform parking regulations in Council Bluffs, researching best practices in other cities and writing a zoning amendment that would modernize parking regulations in Council Bluffs by eliminating parking minimums and adding parking maximums for some uses. The code would also introduce bicycle parking and pedestrian access standards — something the city has never had before. “My advice for recent grads is to continue pushing yourself to learn once you’re finished with school and working full time. There is a lot that planning school will not teach you about the day-to-day work of planning, and that’s OK! You will do a lot of learning on the job,” Brandon said. “So, if you start a new job after graduating and you feel kind of lost for a while, it’s normal and it doesn’t mean you are a bad planner.”



Christian Kirkham

Christian Kirkham, MCMP '16, discovered urban planning after working on a project that involved designing a 3D cityscape. Now, he works as a visualization specialist and urban designer for planning and engineering firm Psomas. He helps design residential products and other communities in CAD and helps turn 2D plans into 3D renderings to show to clients and stakeholders. In one recent project, Christian created a fly-through video that turned into a breakthrough for a relationship with a client, opening the door to future opportunities with the client. “My advice is to thoroughly explore what aspect of urban planning and urban ecology you’re passionate about and go for that. It’s also OK for your interests to change over time,” Christian said. “I started out in the public sector, but eventually learned it wasn’t for me. There’s a ton of different directions you can go with a planning background — it can take you to some unexpected and awesome places if you’re flexible!”



Guillermina Loyola Pelaez

Guillermina Loyola Pelaez, BA Urban Ecology '17, earned a prestigious Fulbright Study Award to France this past year. After graduating in 2017, Gui worked in Washington, D.C., at the Environmental and Energy Study Institute and at Utah’s Office of Energy Development, where she worked until receiving the award. Now, the Fulbright award will allow her to travel to Paris for the next two years as she works toward a master’s degree in Environmental Policy at the Paris Institute of Political Studies. “I applied in the middle of the pandemic, and I didn’t get it,” Gui said. “But I kept trying. ... I like the systems thinking approach and I think that Urban Ecology is just a phenomenal foundation. I referred to that in my application because my major was critical in getting the direction, I wanted to go

in.” The Fulbright program allows U.S. students and young professionals to go abroad and pursue graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and primary and secondary school teaching in 140 countries worldwide. Recipients are selected based on their academic and professional achievements and their records of service and leadership in their fields. The program awards about 1,900 grants annually. In 2022, a University of Utah record 10 students were selected as semifinalists, and four, including Gui, earned the awards.

Delaney Sillman, MCMP '21, along with Assistant Professor **Alessandro Rigolon** and researchers from Clemson University and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, published an article titled “Do sex and gender modify the association between green space and physical health? A systematic review” in June in the journal *Environmental Research*. After examining empirical studies from five databases, the researchers identified 62 articles that analyzed whether the link between green space and physical health differed based on gender. They found that green space could reduce some gender-based health disparities, including health outcomes related to obesity and mortality. Overall, the researchers found that the associations between health outcomes and green space were stronger for women than for men in most of the analyses reported in the 62 articles. Those associations were stronger for women than for men in Europe and North America, but not in other continents. The researchers also concluded that more experimental research is needed on the topic.



Delaney Sillman

Dejan Eskic, MRED '14 and BS Urban Planning '10, is a senior research fellow at the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah, focusing on real estate and economics. Recently, Dejan completed an inventory of Utah's short-term rental units, examining each county in the state. He found that Summit, Grand and Rich counties have the largest share of STRs as a percentage of total housing units, with STRs accounting for 21%, 16.5% and 11.4%, respectively, of each county's total housing stock. The analysis concluded that STRs accounted for 1.6% of Utah's overall housing stock in 2021, up from about 1.4% in 2020. Listings for private rooms fell, while listings for entire homes increased, possibly explained by the likelihood of guests wanting to occupy entire homes instead of a single room to minimize COVID-19 risk. Although STRs represent a low share of Utah's overall housing stock, their distribution is uneven, with five counties accounting for nearly three-quarters of new STR listings, Dejan's research found.



Dejan Eskic

Stay in touch with us; send us your updates: plan@arch.utah.edu

Recognizing Student Success

We truly have the most amazing, compassionate, and invested students. We celebrate their many successes at the end of each spring semester. Though this year's celebration looked a bit different than it has in the past, our students' successes are no less impressive. Congratulations to all graduates, award winners, and scholarship recipients.

BA/BS Urban Ecology Program

Undergraduate Special Achievement Award: **Julia Gaia**

Emerging Young Scholar in Urban Ecology Award: **Lucas Horns**

Emerging Leader in Urban Ecology Award: **Jaime Cross**

Robert Farrington Medal for Academic Excellence in Urban Ecology: **Isabel Fuller**

Master of City & Metropolitan Planning Program

Eugene Carr Medal for Professional Promise: **Jennifer Christine Leslie**

Robert Farrington Medal for Academic Excellence in Urban Planning: **Delaney Sillman**

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award: **Mason Kemp** and **Anthony Fletcher**

Best Professional Project Award: **Sophie Frankenburg** & **Marly Kapacinskas**

APA Utah Outstanding Leadership & Service Award: **Joseph Shahidi**

APA Utah Outstanding Academic Performance Award: **Anders Hart**

APA Outstanding Student Award: **Claudia Loayza**

PhD in Planning, Policy & Design Program

Arthur C Nelson & Clark Ivory Medal for Doctoral Scholarship: **Hassan Ameli**

Graduate Specializations

Ecological Planning: **Marly Kapacinskas, Carrie Marsh, Emily Meadows, Maranda Miller, Lonnie Olson, Cody Opperman**

Economic and Real Estate Development: **Minerva Jimenez-Garcia**

Housing & Community Development: **Claudia Loayza**

Small & Resort Town Planning: **Sophie Frankenburg, Hannah Pack, Patrick Ruiz**

Smart Growth: Land Use, Transportation & Accessibility: **Sophie Bellina, Anthony Fletcher, Erik Fronberg, Anders Hart, Hannah Pack, Patrick Ruiz, Laura Stevens, Kendall Willardson**

Urban Design: **Anthony Fletcher**

Graduate Certificates

Urban Design: **Anthony Fletcher, Morgan Julian, Benna Taylor**

Urban Planning: **Amro Majed Al-Nimri, Skyler Blankenfeld, Tyson Butterfield, Jacob Michael Christensen, Kile Clawson, Tanner Curtis, Bryant Egan, Jacob Finlinson, Baron Gajkowski, Spencer Greer, Blake Bevan Hanson, Dayson Johnson, Kevin Kartchner, Kenneth Lusk, Brent Malili, Samuel Joseph McConkie, Judd Isaac Messenger, Hunter Douglas Murray, Joshua Clarke Narvaez, Esteban Nunez, Dallin Quinn, Landry Redd, Michael Ty Reese, Christopher Rowe, Seth Burton Scholes, Timothy Bushman Snow, Thomas Justin Udy, Benjamin Waller**

Scholarship Recipients

Scholarships awarded by the Department of City & Metropolitan Planning are made possible by the donations given by alumni, local practitioners, firms, and other supporters of CMP. We greatly appreciate your continued support of our students. Below are just some of our scholarship recipients from AY21-22.



Pukar Bhandari

Pukar Bhandari, MCMP student

Coming from a family of farmers from a rural part of Nepal, studying Master of City and Metropolitan Planning at this prestigious institution has been a dream come true for me. This has all been possible due to the generous scholarship offered by the program. While on one side, the scholarship would enable students like me to follow an interest in shaping the built environment around us, on the other, it also helps bring together students from diverse backgrounds (race, ethnicity, origin, and gender) to the field of planning. This fosters a pluralistic environment by encouraging cohort discussions, with everyone contributing their diverse perspective. This has enabled us to not just learn from the course materials but from knowledge sharing of each other's experiences as well. After all, the planning field demands a diverse perspective on the urban problems that our cities are facing currently.



Anthony Biamont

Anthony Biamont, MCMP student

Recognizing the inequalities between my two childhood communities led me to a lifelong fascination with the human condition. For this reason, I studied architecture at the undergraduate level. My experiences as an architect only furthered my interest in urban policy and design. I look to increase my capacity to advocate for social causes through good policy that serves all communities, especially those that have been long neglected. After experiencing the effects of unjust policy, I believe that understanding the forces that produce inequality is essential to disrupting them. Financial aid has made this master's degree possible for me, as it would not be feasible for me to obtain otherwise.



William Goodreid

William Goodreid, MCMP student

In addition to being a decisive factor in my decision to attend the University of Utah, my scholarship has allowed me the freedom to focus on my studies and really delve into my coursework. During my first year in the CMP program, I learned about a wide variety of topics ranging from data analysis to land use law and everything in between. With every course I have taken I have greatly expanded my knowledge of the city planning field while also realizing how much there is left to learn. Furthermore, I have had the opportunity to be a teaching assistant, which not only means working alongside some of the stellar CMP faculty, but also mentoring undergraduate students. Thanks to my scholarship I have been afforded a host of wonderful opportunities on the journey to becoming a city planner, and for that I am grateful.

Recognizing Student Success



Junsik Kim

Junsik Kim, PhD student

I was awarded a CMP scholarship last summer. This scholarship was super helpful to me to focus on my studies. Luckily, I was able to publish one of my studies in the Sustainable Cities and Society journal. And it was helpful to prepare my dissertation proposal. I am sure that I couldn't have done this without the CMP scholarship. I sincerely appreciate all the faculty and CMP staff members for giving me this opportunity.



Taylor Maguire

Taylor Maguire, Urban Ecology + MCMP Student

It has taken me over a decade to complete my undergrad, working multiple jobs simultaneously throughout my academic career as I have no family or external support to help contribute. I am honored to be a recipient of The Robert Farrington Scholarship, granted to a student who shows professional promise in urban ecology. I intend to increase the use of ecological systems in urban planning and will become the first person in my family to achieve a graduate degree due to the generosity of the donors.



Briant Novinska-Lois

Briant Novinska-Lois, MCMP student

By receiving financial assistance to attend the MCMP program at the University of Utah, I can now develop my passion for urban planning and help cities to address issues ranging from homelessness to environmental degradation. I encourage anyone who can donate to this spectacular program to please do so because it allows future planners, like me, the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have a positive impact on our world. Upon leaving this program, I plan to "pay it forward" and become a regular donor myself.



Noshinsiara Promy

Noshinsiara Promy, MCMP student

I am an international graduate student pursuing a master's in the City and Metropolitan Planning Program at the University of Utah. I did my undergraduate degree in architecture and worked as a lecturer in a reputed public university in Bangladesh for three consecutive years. During those days, I worked closely in the urban slums of Bangladesh, which showed me a significant planning gap in global south cities. Hence, I intended to pursue urban planning focused on sustainable community development for my higher studies to bridge this gap. I got to know about the Carl Inoway Community Design Scholarship from the email of our department chair and prepared statements outlining my experience and interest in community development. Graduate students in architecture and planning disciplines with a need for financial support are eligible for this scholarship. Coming from a Third World country like Bangladesh, it was almost impossible for me to continue my higher education in the USA without this financial help. Besides, this recognition boosted my confidence and bolstered my motivation to work for equity and justice in the world around us.

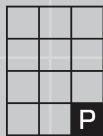


Elizabeth Sodja

Elizabeth Sodja, MCMP student

My name is Elizabeth Sodja, and I want to help gateway and natural amenity communities throughout the West address challenges they're facing. After previous positions in the National Park Service and Utah Conservation Corps, I saw the unprecedented growth and impacts that rising demands for tourism put on the communities that surround our nation's most beautiful places. I feel that planning is one of the best ways I can help these communities face these challenges with the most effective tools and policies available and came back to school at the U to train as a planner and learn these skills. The Eugene Carr scholarship I received helped enable me to go to school full time, and I'm excited to graduate more quickly and start my career helping communities through the tools and knowledge I gained through the MCMP program.

For more information about giving to one of our scholarship programs, contact Angie Harris Roberts, CA+P Development Director, at 801-585-0432 or angie.roberts@utah.edu or go to <https://auxiliary.apps.utah.edu/ugive/>. (Search for College of Architecture + Planning CMP General Scholarship Fund).



City and
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