

Planning Utah

University of Utah Department of City and Metropolitan Planning

2023



City and
Metropolitan
Planning

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New graduate student orientation on a public space tour in downtown Salt Lake City.

Message from the Chair

Another great academic year come and gone. We have so much to celebrate. This newsletter highlights how our students, faculty, and alumni engage Utah.

This year we've had many changes in our faculty and staff, with departures and additions. I want to thank two terrific faculty members: **Sarah Hinners** and **Patrick Putt**. Sarah recently accepted the director of conservation and research position at Red Butte Garden. Sarah, a talented instructor, shaped the lives of many students and brought tremendous energy to our Urban Ecology Undergraduate Program. Patrick, community development director of Summit County, has also taught with the department for a long time. We appreciate his dedication to teaching and sharing his wisdom with our students.

In this newsletter, you will learn about two new faculty members: **Alex Ponette-González** and **Idil Ayril**. Alex is a joint hire between the CMP and the Natural History Museum of Utah. Idil is a new hire at our Urban Ecology Program at the Utah Asia Campus in Songdo, Korea. We also welcomed **Arnab Chakraborty** and **Aujean Lee** over the summer. Arnab joins us from the University of Illinois and is the new College of Architecture and Planning dean. Aujean joins us from the University

of Oklahoma and will teach community engagement and housing this year.

We added a new staff member too. I am delighted to introduce you to **Alex Francis-Riggan**, our academic program manager. Alex has worked on the University of Utah campus since 2004. She has always enjoyed working with students and helping them achieve their goals. Alex earned her BS in Psychology in 2013 and her MBA in 2021 from the University of Utah. She recently served as the co-chair of the Black Faculty and Staff Association on campus to foster community by bringing people together while creating spaces and learning opportunities. In her downtime, she enjoys being outside; camping is one of her favorite activities.

Finally, much appreciation to MCMP student **Julie Williams**, who worked with me to produce this newsletter over the summer. She did a terrific job chasing leads and tracking down snapshots of CMP staff, students and faculty.

Sincerely,



Stacy Harwood
Professor and Chair
Department of City & Metropolitan Planning



Stacy Harwood

Students Engaging Utah



Evyn Delong

Urban Ecology Honors Student: Evyn Delong

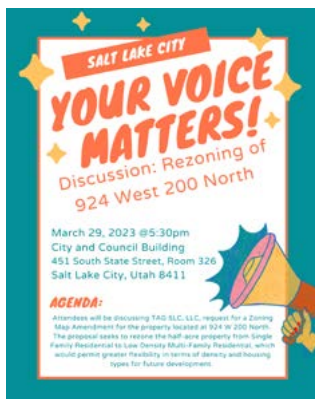
Evyn wrote her thesis on how religious settlements shaped the development of Western towns in the United States. We asked Evyn to comment on her experience as an Urban Ecology honors student: “During my time as an honors student at the U, the thought of writing my thesis was always something that seemed very daunting. Like most college students, I kept putting it off because I could not decide on the topic. A few months into my senior year, I decided I needed to simplify and narrow down my ideas to find something interesting. Not being from Utah, the layout of Salt Lake City’s downtown always intrigued me, so I decided to study the history of the grid system and how the LDS church influenced the city’s design. With the help of my thesis mentor and advisor, I was able to deep dive into Salt Lake’s history and was able to turn an intimidating deadline into a fun research project.”



Molly Robinson

Urban Ecology Students Learn Communication Skills

Molly Robinson, urban designer and planner, teaches CMP 3270: Visual and Oral Communication. Last spring, urban ecology undergraduate students experimented with visual and oral communication practices and methods. Students explored the concept of bias in communication, how it colors our words and actions, and its role in working in a cross-cultural setting. Students in the course also develop their graphic communication skills using Adobe Creative Suite, an important skill for urban planning and many related fields. This course teaches students about professional communication practices, challenges the status quo communication methods, and builds their voice and graphic design philosophy. Below is an example of student work from the course done by **Brendan Belz**.



Example of poster assignment

“CMP 3270 was a highly engaging course for me during the semester. One profound concept that resonated with me, and will undoubtedly stay with me for life, is the significance of perspective. This class taught me the importance of considering perspective when undertaking large-scale design and planning. Recognizing that everyone possesses different backgrounds and perspectives is crucial in the design process. I tried to apply this principle in creating my poster by ensuring it stood out, employing straightforward language, and presenting it aesthetically. Additionally, I carefully selected complementary colors. By incorporating these teachings, I believe I produced an effective poster that informs the public, who possess a wide range of perspectives.”

Dark Sky Studies Minor Students Return to Helper, Utah

During a clear-skied weekend in March 2023, students in Nightscapes (CMP 3851), one of the required courses for the Dark Sky Studies Minor, visited Helper, Utah, to learn more about preserving the night sky. Helper is the second city in Utah and the 25th city in the world to be designated as an International Dark Sky Community, a place noteworthy for its quality night skies and commitment to protecting natural darkness. During the field trip, led by instructors **Daniel Mendoza** and **Kate Magargal**, students engaged with the community and measured night light in a hands-on setting.

Students developed project proposals for preserving the night sky and presented to community stakeholders during the visit to Helper. The class also had the opportunity to observe the night sky with Helper's Dark Sky Observers Club and got a tour of the historic city from Mayor Lenise Peterman, who has been instrumental in the revitalization of Helper's historic Main Street and the city's dark sky efforts. Additionally, the class collected light measurements throughout the city to learn more about light pollution, observe Helper's successes in dark sky preservation, and provide recommendations for possible improvement.

Two noteworthy achievements of the course: A student group provided a new logo for Helper to represent its commitment to dark skies following a survey conducted via a QR code printed on every resident's utility bill; and the students produced stickers and other promotional materials for the town to celebrate the commitment to dark skies.



Downtown Helper, Utah



Taking light measurements



Touring Helper during the day



Observing the night sky

Students Engaging Utah

Reflections from Recent 4+1 Graduates

Lauren Taylor Maguire



*Lauren Taylor
Maguire*

“The 4+1 Program allows students to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Ecology and a Master of City & Metropolitan Planning in a year less than it would take to get them both separately. I never intended to go to grad school — no one in my family ever had; I couldn’t even name anyone who had, save a handful of teachers. I would encourage any Urban Ecology student to consider applying to the program, as it is a great way to save time and money. Overall, I am very happy that I decided to participate in the 4+1 Program. It has allowed me to earn two degrees in a shorter amount of time and given me a head start in my career. If you are considering applying to the program, I encourage you to do so!”

Lucas Horns



Lucas Horns

“Graduating from the 4+1 program this past spring felt bittersweet. While I was excited to get out into the ‘real world’ and start working, I was sad to be leaving the energetic environment of the CMP Department. The CMP faculty are passionate about their work and approach planning with unwavering enthusiasm. This resulted in a group of students who strongly believe in our role as city planners to effect positive change in the world. I’ll always miss talking philosophically with other CMP students about alternative transportation, affordable housing, or green infrastructure. I’ll especially miss my fellow 4+1 students whom I spent years with as we transitioned from our undergrad to the master’s program. The 4+1 program felt like a marathon, but it instilled in us a deep and well-rounded understanding of the world of planning. It’s only been a few months since graduation, but I’m already nostalgic for my time in the CMP Department. I know wherever I go, I’ll owe gratitude to the CMP Department for getting me there.”

Master of City & Metropolitan Planning

Last spring, second-year MCMP students presented their professional projects, which showcased the hard work they have been doing over the past year. This year there was a wide range of project topics, including active transportation, urban design, neighborhood plans, parks and open space planning, planning for equity and advocacy, and disaster planning. Each project showcased the knowledge and skills students gained during their time in the MCMP program. Students often work with local clients, which allows them to build real-world skills and connections vital to launching a career in planning and related fields and often leads to job opportunities. This year’s partners included Wasatch Front Regional Council, Emigration Canyon Metro Township, United Way of Salt Lake, Glendale Neighborhood Council, City of South Salt Lake, Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District, Summit County

Planning Department, BikeUtah, Redevelopment Agency of Salt Lake City, Utah Wildlife Federation, Southeast Utah Association of Local Governments, Price City, Loft Six Four, UTRAC, Salt Lake City Transportation Division, Wasatch Transportation Academy, Eagle Mountain City, National Institute for Transportation and Communities, Arete Collective, and Tooele City.

Pukar Bhandari and **Will Goodreid** both received the Best Professional Project award. Will worked with Glendale Neighborhood Council to develop an active transportation plan for Glendale. The plan outlines ways to reduce automobile dependency and give residents a wider range of affordable transportation options, including a safe and connected network of bike lanes, sidewalks, and crosswalks throughout the neighborhood. Pukar worked with Wasatch Front Regional Council, Downtown Alliance, and Salt Lake City Transportation Division to explore how transportation and land use interact to shape urban environments. His project focused on analyzing the demand and supply of off-street parking infrastructure within Salt Lake City's free-fare zone. Through this research, Pukar gained a profound understanding of the intricate relationship between land use and transportation in cities. One of the most eye-opening findings was the significant underutilization of downtown parking facilities, which opened the door to reimagining parking management and making better use of valuable land. The project further explored innovative parking strategies like flexible requirements, shared parking, dynamic pricing, and improved alternative transportation options to create a comprehensive approach that optimizes parking supply while fostering economic growth and community development.

Recent Graduates from the Ph.D. in Metropolitan Planning, Policy and Design

Hassan Ameli — Advisor: *Reid Ewing*

With a background in architecture and design, Hassan Ameli was interested in exploring the applications of emerging technologies in urban design and planning during his doctoral studies. He explored the level of agreement between in-person field observation and remote observation using Google Street View imagery to measure street-level qualities of the urban environment, known as urban design qualities. He also attempted to identify the most important streetscape features by explaining and predicting pedestrian activity. Finally, he delved into the applications of AI and computer vision to automate the resource-intensive field observation required for measuring the street-level quality of the built environment. Hassan received the NITC Ph.D. dissertation fellowship for his doctoral dissertation. He recently started a postdoctoral position at Florida Atlantic University.



Pukar Bhandari



Will Goodreid



Hassan Ameli

Continued on page 6

Students Engaging Utah

Continued from page 5



*Andrea
Garfinkel-Castro*

Andrea Garfinkel-Castro — *Advisor: Stacy Harwood*

Andrea’s dissertation examines planning’s stated equity aspirations and the actual on-the-ground outcomes, what she refers to as the “talk-walk gap.” Employing a critical cultural lens to understand this gap, Andrea found that culture and positionality inform a planner’s actions and decision-making processes, often subconsciously and automatically. The lack of perspective and “voice” of planners of color within the planning profession perpetuates this bias and blindness. Since graduating, Andrea founded Transport Futures, a research institute. She is currently collaborating with a multinational group of scholars based in Africa on a systematic literature review on transportation governance and launching an international pedestrian safety project called Crosswalks Academy: Saving Lives One Crosswalk at a Time. She also works at Utah State University as a multicultural researcher and outreach coordinator for the Utah Women and Leadership Project (UWLP), whose mission is to strengthen the impact of Utah girls and women.



Ja Young Kim

Ja Young Kim — *Advisor: Keith Bartholomew*

Ja Young’s dissertation examines the built environment of first- and last-mile public transit accessibility for older adults and people with disabilities. As a continuum of accessibility in different life-spaces that contributes to overall transit accessibility for those with limited mobility, this claims collaborative efforts beyond agencies and stakeholders, and a broader and comprehensive plan for transportation justice. Ja Young recently started a visiting assistant professor position at the School of Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Iowa.



Dong-ah Choi

Dong-ah Choi — *Advisor: Reid Ewing*

Dong-ah’s dissertation explores the role of street greenery in creating and promoting active living communities, asking how street greenery impacts physical activity, mental health and well-being, and social interactions. Dong-ah developed four evaluative measures of street greenery based on remotely sensed images and examined the distribution of street greenery in large urban areas in the U.S. West and associated environmental justice issues. She also investigated the associations between street greenery and walking. Third, Dong-ah analyzed the links between street greenery and body mass index. From those three lines of research, she found that while street greenery is inequitably distributed across all cities examined, it was significantly associated with more walking and reduced BMIs. Her dissertation provides implications for urban forestry, urban design, transportation planning, and public health and suggests future research areas. Dong-ah is currently working as a research professor at the Institute for Sustainable Development at Korea University.

Debolina Banerjee — *Advisor: Sarah Jack Hinners*

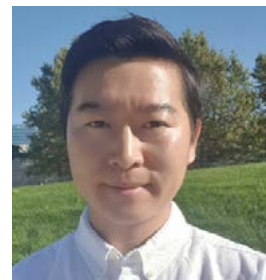
Debolina's dissertation examines the social and natural environment that facilitates higher adoption of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) in various cities in Utah. While cognitive barriers have been identified as a significant impediment to GSI implementation, Debolina drew from socio-psychological theories to determine key stakeholders' values, beliefs, and perceptions of GSI, the factors that form them, and their influence on future GSI adoption. As cities look to uptake more sustainable planning practices in combating the challenges presented by climate change, a thorough understanding of the social influencers of GSI adoption can play a significant role in integrating GSI into the urban landscape. Debolina recently accepted a postdoctoral position in the SPARC Environmental Justice Lab at the University of Utah.



Debolina Banerjee

Wookjae Yang — *Advisor: Reid Ewing*

Wookjae's dissertation explores micromobility and the built environment. It addresses three research questions that give us a deeper understanding of new shared micromobility that may encourage accessibility, affordability, and safety. The findings will help policymakers, urban planners, and transportation agencies to make informed decisions and develop policies and interventions to encourage accessible, affordable, and safe use of e-scooters. Ultimately, this knowledge encourages widespread and responsible use of e-scooters as a sustainable transportation in a relation to the built environment. He recently accepted a postdoctoral research position at the Seoul National University.



Wookjae Yang

Sayma Khajehei — *Advisor: Divya Chandrasekhar*

Sayma focused on the implications of institutional actors in post-disaster public housing recovery. Public housing recovery represents an interdependent process involving various institutional actors interacting to provide services to a highly socially vulnerable population after disasters. The history of disasters shows a weak public housing recovery governance, and the recovery outcomes for this community cohort raised significant equity issues. The findings of her dissertation have important implications for disaster planning, housing planning and policy, emergency management, public administration, community development, public health, and nonprofit management. It adds to the disaster governance knowledge and enhances the quality of recovery governance for at-risk communities and populations. Sayma recently joined the Towson University in Maryland as a tenure-track assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Planning.



Sayma Khajehei

Faculty Engaging Utah



Alexandra Ponette-González

New Faculty Hire with Natural History Museum of Utah

As an urban ecologist with a joint position in CMP and the Natural History Museum of Utah, Associate Professor **Alexandra Ponette-González** is broadly interested in how the composition and configuration of cities affect air quality, soil chemistry, and water flows. Using field, lab, and modeling tools, she studies how urban vegetation can be used to mitigate environmental problems, including air pollution, at fine spatial scales. She is currently working on a project that examines equity and environmental justice in urban forest planning and management in four U.S. states—Utah, Oregon, Texas, and Ohio. In the future, she plans to utilize museum-based collections to study historical air pollution in and around Salt Lake City.

Dr. Ponette-González and colleagues recently authored an article in *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening* that is the culmination of a project that investigated the role of city trees in the capture and storage of black carbon, an air pollutant that is a powerful climate-forcing agent and threat to human health. In this paper, Dr. Ponette-González and colleagues examined the influence of 226 urban form variables on the filtration of black carbon by urban trees and found that proximity to and terrain exposure toward emissions sources as well as topographic exposure were the most important drivers. Using this information, they estimated the potential for black carbon filtration with tree planting across our study area. Their research shows how such information, coupled with city-level planting priorities, can guide tree planting decision-making and inform the design and planning of urban forests.

City in Literature

This past spring, Adjunct Instructors **Michael Maloy**, director of planning for Herriman, Utah, and **Mark McGrath**, director of community development for Taylorsville, Utah, taught City in Literature. Through literature, students had the opportunity to explore people, concepts, and events that have influenced the planning and development of cities. The course is designed to inspire passion for cities, deepen appreciation for history, increase comprehension of the built environment, and encourage lifelong reading. Recent MCMP graduate **Briant Novinska-Lois** comments, “As a literature enthusiast and urban explorer, I cannot recommend the City in Literature class enough. This course and its instructors are absolute gems that seamlessly weave the realms of literature and urban planning together, creating a rich tapestry of knowledge and appreciation for the cities and spaces we inhabit. From the beginning, this class stood out to me for its unique approach to exploring the role of cities as living, breathing characters in literature. The passionate and knowledgeable instructors, Michael and Mark, guide students

through extensive literary works from the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, unveiling how authors have beautifully incorporated urban spaces as integral elements in their stories. While the focus is on literature, the class deftly delved into urban planning concepts, offering us a multitude of perspectives on how cities are not just backdrops but living organisms that shape and are shaped by their inhabitants. The class is structured to engage by allowing students to present short presentations to the class regularly. This may sound intimidating, but Michael and Mark work hard to create a relaxed, inclusive, and constructive environment — they bring in cannoli! These presentations highlighted diverse perspectives and insights, fostering stimulating discussions that expanded my understanding of urban planning and its profound impact on literature. In addition to these discussions, even more value was added to this class through engaging lectures and fascinating guest speakers from the fields of literature and urban planning. Moreover, the course also incorporated an intriguing Jacobsian tour to nearby urban areas, which breathed life into the literary settings we had been studying. Witnessing how urban planning principles were manifested in real-life cityscapes was an enlightening experience that left an indelible impression on me. It has deepened my appreciation for the art of storytelling and the intricacies of urban planning and design.”

New Faculty Member Joins Urban Ecology Program in Korea

Idil Ayril, assistant professor lecturer, recently joined the Urban Ecology Program at the Utah Asia Campus (UAC). Dr. Ayril completed her Ph.D. at Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, where she examined public space in 20th-century Barcelona for her thesis. Her architecture master’s thesis, completed at Istanbul Technical University, involved research on 19th-century garden kiosks in Istanbul. Last spring Idil Ayril and **Reazul Ahsan**, also an Urban Ecology Professor at UAC, showcased student work at an end-of-semester exhibit, including posters and three-dimensional architectural models in various scales. One course focused on the “Forgotten Space,” where students identified ways to reactivate abandoned spaces in the city. Students used environment-friendly and recycled materials and developed their projects around reusing existing elements and principles of sustainability.



City in Literature student gather to eat and discuss books!



UAC Urban Ecology students

Faculty Engaging Utah



Caitlin Cahill

Planning for People, Not Highways

Adjunct Associate Professor **Caitlin Cahill** taught an intensive summer workshop called Planning for People, Not Highways to understand the impact of the proposed I-15 expansion and engage with affected community members. The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) plans to expand I-15 from Salt Lake to Davis County, adding new lanes in each direction at an estimated cost of \$1.6 billion. In fall 2022, UDOT initiated an environmental study identifying alternative proposals to widen I-15. Initial alternatives included proposals to widen I-15 from 18 to 20 lanes. In response, a coalition of organizations formed to amplify the concerns of community members about potential impacts, including air and noise pollution, the loss of wildlife habitat, loss of property, disruption to businesses, and the high cost to taxpayers. The coalition includes NeighborWorks Salt Lake, River District Business Alliance, HEAL Utah, Utah Independent Business Council, Red Iguana, Sweet Streets, the West Side Coalition, and the Mestizo Coffeehouse. The logo for the coalition was designed by CMP graduate student **Parviz Faiz** to express diverse concerns; the blank space can be filled in by community members, for example, “Clean Air Over Freeways,” “Public Transportation Over Freeways,” and “Our Kids’ Future Over Freeways.” Students also designed a lawn sign with this logo.

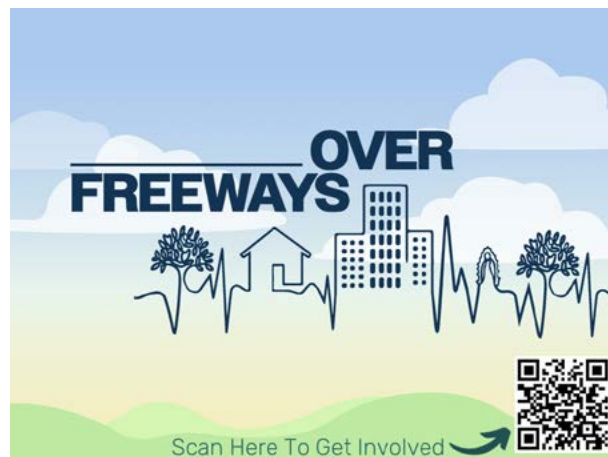


The class was offered in the summer to engage with communities in advance of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The timing for the class was perfect! Just before the class started, UDOT released a screening report that shared alternative proposals for I-15 expansion. Students had the opportunity to attend a “Teach-In” and community dialogue on the west side, several UDOT community meetings and listening sessions, a “Follow the Freeway Footprint” tour of the Guadalupe neighborhood, a meeting for small business owners to address their concerns at the Red Tree Room, and a table at the Partners in the Park. Students worked with community partners to do outreach about the I-15 expansion, including tabling at local events and surveying neighbors on the west side as well as small businesses on the west side and in Davis County. As part of this work, students listened to community members about their concerns and developed creative community-facing products to be used by local organizations including a call to action, public education materials, a bilingual timeline, a glossary of key terms used in the EIS process, postcard and social media kit, a decibel reading map, and a GIS map of businesses and their proximity to I-15.



For some of the students, it was the first time they spent time on the west side; for others, it was the first time they engaged with community members, and for others, it created an opportunity to reflect upon the relationship between theory and practice in community engagement and participatory planning. Undergraduate Urban Ecology student **Emma Glende** wrote, “This course was a great way to engage with community members through various hands-on approaches and taught me the importance of involving the public in the planning process. I had never seen a group of people who care so much about the future of their neighborhood. I loved that we saw many sides of the planning process and saw the issue of the I-15 expansion proposal from the lens of residents, politicians, community leaders, students, UDOT planners, and members of the Stop I-15 Coalition.” Students in the class appreciated building relationships with community stakeholders, interacting with legislators, and applying their learning in a real-world context. Graduate CMP student **Cameron Carter** explains, “Understanding the socio-political context in which the proposed I-15 expansion exists is essential for shedding light on the broader power structures and incentives that shape community engagement and empowerment. ... This class has been a transformative experience, equipping me with a deeper understanding of the complexities of community engagement and the importance of proactive, accessible planning interventions. The knowledge and skills gained in this class will serve as a solid foundation for my future endeavors in the field of planning.” **Sandra Luo**, CMP graduate student, reflected on how the course opened an opportunity to rethink community engagement: “To effectively carry out community engagement, more needs to be done beyond just providing these opportunities for people to interface with organizations and agencies. ... I think that participatory planning would be a great resource if it involved community members from the very start to finish — and if there were specific equitable values and goals to drive the process. It’s simply not enough to involve people at a surface level. Community isn’t a noun but rather a verb. It requires care, effort, and accountability. And community is an ongoing action that planners must immerse themselves in — not to remove themselves from.”

Planning for People, Not Highways was featured in an article about the I-15 expansion in Deseret News (July 5, 2023).





Mallory Bateman

Mallory Bateman, BA Urban Planning '08, is Utah's state demographer. She is quoted in a recent article about Utah's growing population — which is mostly tied to people moving, not births. Read the article and learn more about the state's changing demographics: <https://www.sltrib.com/news/2022/12/01/wow-utah-sees-largest-population/>



Lauren Leydsman

Lauren Leydsman, BS Urban Ecology '19, had the privilege of connecting with inspiring individuals who have significantly shaped her career trajectory. Post-graduation, she flourished within the dynamic realm of urban design, specializing in visualizations and graphics. Initially, she worked at VODA Landscape & Planning, gaining experience in form-based code, small area plans, and residential landscape design. Subsequently, she joined MHTN Architects in November 2020, where she contributes to the planning, landscape, and pre-design teams. This role allows her to engage in diverse projects and foster collaborative partnerships with architects, interior designers, landscape architects, and fellow planners. Noteworthy projects she has recently worked on or is currently involved in include the SUU Campus Master Plan, Millcreek City Hall (pre-design and landscape), Vernal Downtown Plan, Highland Drive Concept & Design, and Judge Memorial High School Master Plan.



Torrey Lyons

Torrey Lyons, Ph.D. in Metropolitan Planning, Policy & Design '19, is a research scientist in the Mobility Analytics group at the Idaho National Laboratory, studying how transportation and energy transition decisions affect people, the environment, and economies. He recently completed a detail to the U.S. Joint Office of Energy and Transportation, contributing to implementing Justice40 and other equity considerations in the roll out of new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law programs like the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program. Before joining the Idaho National Laboratory, Dr. Lyons worked in consulting and academia. He lives in Livingston, Mont., where he was elected in 2021 to serve a four-year term as a city commissioner, also serving on the Livingston Planning Board and the Windrider Transit Board.

Christopher Putt, BS Urban Ecology '20, is a transportation planner at High Valley Transit. We interviewed Christopher to learn more about life after graduation. Here is what he has to say: “My experience at CA+P has helped me in my current career and graduate studies immensely. Obviously, learning certain software and programs has been beneficial but beyond that my experience has taught me to look at and think differently about the way our cities/infrastructure/buildings connect with this larger web of ecological and societal networks that make up the fabric of our cities. Learning to think and question more critically through my education at CA+P has been the most valuable tool I’ve gained.”



Christopher Putt

Julianne Sabula, BS Urban Planning '07, is the strategic planning and programming manager at Salt Lake City Transportation Division. This year she won the CMP Outstanding Partner Award, given to a practitioner or member of the community who contributes time and expertise to help the CMP Department. The award recognizes her contribution to the Wasatch Transportation Academy, where she presented in the class, facilitated student mentoring with a host of city staff, and played a leading role in the WTA stakeholder groups. Congratulations and thank you, Julianne!



Julianne Sabula

Fariba Siddiq, MCMP '19, won the Lee Schipper Scholarship Award for her research on women and ride-hailing at UCLA. She is leveraging her cross-cultural knowledge to study gender differences in ride-hailing. Siddiq, born and raised in Bangladesh, is researching ride-hailing experiences across genders in Los Angeles and Dhaka, Bangladesh. In her study, she'll explore how ride-hailing impacts mobility and access to opportunities for women in both countries — before and after COVID-19. Read more here: <https://www.its.ucla.edu/2020/11/30/international-study-on-women-and-ride-hailing-wins-award/>



Fariba Siddiq

John Willis, BS Urban Planning '05, was appointed city manager of St. George on Jan. 19, 2023. Congratulations, John! John has served as community development director since August 2018 and was the city's planning and zoning manager for four years prior to that. All told, John has more than 17 years of experience in land use, planning, and zoning. In addition to the City of St. George, where John has worked for 10 years (over two stints), he served as the senior land use and environmental planner for the City of Mesquite, Nev., and the planning coordinator for Draper City.



John Willis

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: **Emma Glende**

Emerging Young Scholar in Urban Ecology Award: **Nicolas Stokes**

Emerging Leader in Urban Ecology Award: **Ajla Hadzialijagic**

Robert Farrington Medal for Academic Excellence in Urban Ecology: **Ahayeon (Kay) Kim**

Master of City & Metropolitan Planning Program

Eugene Carr Medal for Professional Promise: **Leota Coyne**

Robert Farrington Medal for Academic Excellence in Urban Planning: **Daniel Ritter**

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award: **Corey Bishop, Luis Garcia, Rachel Stein**

Best Professional Project Award: **Pukar Bhandari, Will Goodreid**

APA Utah Outstanding Leadership & Service Award: **Jenna Benson**

APA Utah Outstanding Academic Performance Award: **Briant Novinska-Lois**

APA Outstanding Student Award: **Anna Maki**

PhD in Planning, Policy & Design Program

Arthur C Nelson & Clark Ivory Medal for Doctoral Scholarship: **Sayma Khajehei**

Graduate Specializations

Ecological Planning: **Mason Kemp, Jennifer Leslie, Lauren Taylor Maguire, Rachel Stein**

Economic and Real Estate Development: **Jonathan Concidine, Rachel Stein**

Housing & Community Development: **Tereza Bagdasarova, Meghan Burrows, Jennifer Leslie**

Small & Resort Town Planning: **Anthony Biamont, Mason Kemp, Jacob Klopfenstein, Jennifer Leslie, Elizabeth Sodja**

Smart Growth: **Land Use, Transportation & Accessibility: Pukar Bhandari, Will Goodreid, Sadika Khan, Jacob Klopfenstein, Virgil Lund, Lauren Taylor Maguire, Anna Maki, Noshin Siara Promy, Kristin Reidelberger, Matthew Ryan, Tyler Torres, Justice Tuffour**

Urban Design: **Kyungsuk Chae, Allie Parker, Jed Shum, Megan Spencer-Webb, Rachel Stein**

Graduate Certificates

Community **Engaged Practices: Maja Tacchi**

Urban Design: **Allie Parker, Jed Shum, Rachel Stein, Megan Spencer**

Urban Planning: **Porter Linton Anderson, Caroline Katerina Ballard, Derek Kenneth Beyer, Lucas Charles Chimento, Jordan Van Christensen, Amy Clayton, Mitch Clayton, Kristian Cook, Moises Filomeno Cook, John Alexander Dahlstrom, Russell Clark Dilworth, Philip James Dunn, Andrew Frederick, Taylor Wallace Frey, Victoria Mary Garcia, Isabeau Renee Deette Hoffmann-Hansen, Cash Hunsaker, Zachary Jones, Ryan Richard Kiger, Luke Evan Littlefield, Andrew Charles Lloyd, Henry Clark Metcalf, Teresa Jane Mikesell, Preston Thomas Moebius, Mitchel Lynn Morris, Chase Benton Nielsen, Rebecca Lee Paulson, Brett Peters, Josefine Lien Selvaag, Cole Andrew Smith, Marley Studebaker, Austin Hilton Taylor, Anthony Douglas Trotter, Mark Leon Whitworth**

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 AY22-23.



Jeresun Atkin

Jeresun Atkin — NITC Scholarship

“I am so thankful for the scholarship I received from the National Institute for Transportation and Communities. It has provided me with financial support and the opportunity to achieve my full potential during my graduate studies. I was not sure how I could afford graduate school when I applied over a year ago, so the ability to attend without the burden of financial constraints is amazing. I am deeply grateful for the contribution to my studies and the path it has set me on.”



Leticia Bennett

Leticia Bennett — Eugene Carr Scholarship

“I was very happy to learn I had been accepted into graduate school! I would have the opportunity to continue learning and to work toward my career goals. However, the reality of cost sank in not too long afterward. There was even a point where I wondered if I couldn’t go because I wouldn’t have enough money to pay for the entire school year. I couldn’t believe I had been offered a scholarship and an assistantship. I really appreciate the financial support that has been given to me. Without it, I would not be where I am now working toward earning my degree.”



Pukar Bhandari

Pukar Bhandari — City & Metropolitan Planning Scholarship

“Having grown up in a family of farmers in rural Nepal, I am immensely grateful for the opportunity I received to pursue a Master of City and Metropolitan Planning. It is truly a dream come true for me, and I owe my presence here to the generous scholarship provided by the program. This scholarship not only allows students like me to pursue our interests in shaping the built environment, but it also facilitates the convergence of individuals from diverse backgrounds (in terms of race, ethnicity, origin, and gender) within the planning field. The significance of such diversity becomes apparent as the planning field requires multifaceted viewpoints to address the complex urban challenges our cities are currently confronting.”

Recognizing Student Success



Cameron Carter

Cameron Carter — Ewing-Christensen Smart Growth Scholarship

“The summer scholarship has been incredibly helpful, as it not only provided financial support but also allowed me to take the summer graduate workshop course on I-15 expansion. Through this course, I gained practical, hands-on experience with community engagement and planning work on the west side of Salt Lake City. This scholarship unlocked opportunities for personal growth and professional development. I’m very grateful for the support that made this scholarship possible.”



McCall Christensen

McCall Christensen — Eugene Carr Scholarship

“I am beyond humbled to be a scholarship recipient. Thanks to my scholarship, I can focus on studying and exploring the variety of opportunities MCMP offers while navigating the second half of my professional career and discovering where I can make the most impact as a city and metropolitan planner.”



Leota Coyne

Leota Coyne — NITC Scholarship

“I am honored to receive a NITC Scholarship! I appreciate and am thankful for the financial support to pursue my degree. My scholarship has allowed me to focus on my coursework and get the most out of each class I have taken. I’ve enjoyed returning to the University of Utah to the fullest, and receiving a scholarship has allowed me to tailor my education toward my professional interests in recreation, green space, and active transportation. I am incredibly grateful for my scholarship and the opportunities it provides for my education.”



Justin Delgado

Justin Delgado — NITC Scholarship

“The generous funding provided by NITC is one of the major enablers for my exploration while in college. I will always be grateful for the department using NITC funds to support me in attending a study abroad program looking at how internationally recognized cycling cities start, support their inhabitants, encourage mobility habits in their population, and use transportation infrastructure for economic investment. I will take the experiences and insights from that educational experience with me for the rest of my life.”



Moira Dillow

Moira Dillow — NITC Scholarship

“As a recipient of the National Institute for Transportation and Communities Scholarship (NITC), I am filled with gratitude for the help of simultaneously relieving the pressure from grad school expenses while learning about and putting my best foot forward to serve my community. The NITC scholarship has opened my eyes to equality within communities and the power of change. I look forward to continuing to be educated on the vastness of urban planning.”



Alyssa Florack-Hess

Alyssa Florack-Hess — City and Metropolitan Planning Scholarship

“My scholarship has meant having the freedom to focus on my classes without being stressed about the financial pressures of returning to school for grad school. I am grateful for the folks, organizations, and companies who have donated to provide that support and freedom for my grad school education!”

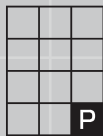


Shreya Shrestha

Shreya Shrestha — City and Metropolitan Planning Scholarship

“As a female Newar Janajati from the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal, I take pride in continuing the legacy of such a rich ancient civilization through art, culture, and literature, religion, architecture, and cuisine. I am acutely aware that many women in the same society continue to struggle due to the gendered vulnerabilities imposed by intersecting identities. Overcoming that barrier was challenging, but receiving a fully funded scholarship was a massive support for convincing my parents and allowed me to advance in the pyramid of success, enabling me to rise above my circumstances. It has undeniably opened countless doors to infinite opportunities for personal growth. I firmly believe there will come a time when I can generously give back to the University of Utah and contribute as a sponsor of this invaluable scholarship.”

For more information about giving to one of our scholarship programs, contact plan@arch.utah.edu, roberts@utah.edu or go to: <https://auxiliary.apps.utah.edu/ugive/> Search for College of Architecture + Planning CMP General Scholarship Fund.



City and
Metropolitan
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