

THE URBS POST

Fall 2020

Newsletter of The Department of Urban Studies and Planning, California State University, Northridge

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Full-Time Faculty

Rob Kent (Chair), Ph.D.

Craig Olwert, Ph.D.

Henrik Minassians, Ph.D.

Ward Thomas, Ph.D.

Zeynep Toker, Ph.D.

Mintesnot Woldeamanuel, Ph.D.

Part-Time Faculty

Thomas Bassett, M.A.

Bradley Calvert, M.A.

Euripedes DeOliveira, Ph.D.

Daniel Freedman, J.D.

Paloma Giottonini, Ph.D.

Scott Howard, J.D.

Brettany Shannon, Ph.D.

Diana Varat, J.D.

Dev Vrat, M.A., AICP

David Weintraub, M. A.

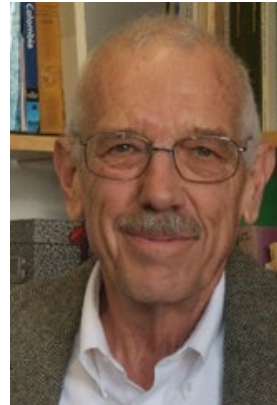
Claude Willey, M.F.A.

Staff

Mirna Reyes, Admin. Support Coordinator

Charity Tolefree, Administrative Assistant

Chair's Message - The New Normal at CSUN



From Dr. Rob Kent, Chair, Urban Studies and Planning Department (pictured left).

As the months of the pandemic have passed, we've settled into a new normal at CSUN. It is a normal with very few people on campus and most folks at home teaching and learning remotely. During the Fall Semester 2020, the CSUN campus has been open only for essential services (e.g. physical plant and police services) and almost all classes and labs have been taught remotely on Zoom. The same operational framework is planned for Spring Semester 2021.

Clearly, Covid-19 has turned the world upside-down for many of us. At CSUN it has challenged us to offer a rigorous and rewarding university experience to our students while teaching all our classes and labs remotely. It has required faculty, staff, and students to learn and use new instructional methods and techniques. Faculty and staff have worked hard to ensure our students have a positive educational experience and that they are making progress towards completing their degrees in a timely manner and graduating. Students have been flexible and adaptable in the face of these new challenges as well. The bottom line is that despite the immense difficulties of running a university safely during a global pandemic, CSUN has succeeded. It is heartening to see how well the university community has adapted to our changed circumstances and our new normal. Kudos to CSUN!!

Alumni Appointed as Planning Commissioners

Two of the department's alumni have been appointed recently as planning commissioners. Melodi Magee (BA '14) is a recent appointee to the Planning Commission for the City of Klamath Falls, Oregon. In Los Angeles, Yvette Lopez-Ledesma (BA '11, MPA/Urban Studies '13) now serves as a commissioner on the North Valley Area Planning Commission for the City of Los Angeles.



Pictured above: Melodi Magee (BA '14)



Pictured above: Yvette Lopez-Ledesma (BA '11, MPA/Urban Studies '13)

Alumni Update

Jeffrey Allen (BA '08) is senior project coordinator at Kimberlina Whettam and Associates in Los Angeles.

Jan Bryant (BA '06) has retired to Sugarloaf, CA where she is a community volunteer.

AnaLisa Campos (BA '14) is a food connection coordinator with Riverside Food Rescue.

Jane Farkas (BA '03) is the director of land and regulatory affairs for Carbon California in Santa Paula, CA.

Adrian Flores (BA '19) is an assistant planner in the City of Bell Gardens.

Elizabeth Golden (BA '17) completed her masters of city and regional planning at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. She works as an intern for the County of San Luis Obispo.

Nadar Khalil (MUP '19) is a staff planner with Meridian Consultants in Los Angeles, CA

Rogelio Martinez (BA '16) is a planner in Bakersfield, CA working for Kern County

Raquel Menanno (BA '18) is an assistant planner with PlanWest Partners in Arcata, CA.

Julie Newman (BA '96) is a real estate agent with Keller Williams in Calabasas CA.

Jonathan Palacio (BA '00) is a planner with the California Department of Transportation – District 7 – in Los Angeles, CA.

Sofia Ramirez (MUP '19) is a mental health counselor with the San Fernando Valley Community Mental Health Center.

Enrique Rubalcava (BA '14) is an architect and a designer with PBK in Oxnard, CA.

Evan Sensibile (MUP '19) is a staff planner with Meridian Consultants in Los Angeles, CA

Todd Soronen (BA '09) is the Vice-President for National Sales at Swift Loans.

URBS Students Win Scholarships

The department's undergraduate majors and graduate students have won a number of prestigious scholarships this summer and fall. These include four scholarship awards from the California Planning Foundation, two scholarship awards from the WTS Los Angeles – Advancing Women, and one scholarship from the My Matador Scholarship Fund. Congratulations to the winners!

American Planning Association – California Planning Foundation

- Whitney Heller, (Undergraduate Major)
- Maribel Sandoval Contreras, (Master's Student)
- Roxan Rivas, (Master's Student)
- Nathan Romine, (Master's Student)

WTS - Los Angeles – Advancing Women – Advancing Transportation

- Roxan Rivas, (Masters Student)
- Rebecca Swint, (Undergraduate Major)

MyMatador Scholarship Fund 2021 Dario Fernandez Scholarship

- Maribel Sandoval Contreras, (Master's Student)

Spring 2020 Graduates- Congratulations!

Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and Planning

- Miguel Lamas
- Alexandra Clingman
- Michelle Rivera
- Jocelyn Morales
- Adam Weitzmann
- Leo Gharamanian
- Monique Barajas

- Renata Hrzenjak
- Jocelyn Hernandez
- Arthur Eckelberry
- Jaclyn Rackerby
- Atticus Lee
- Denmark Valerio
- Clint Meyer
- Nicole Potkin
- Jimmy Ramos

Master of Urban Planning (MUP)

- Christian Candelaria
- Daniel Vazquez
- Douglas Nguyen
- Kimberly Bernal
- Alan Sims
- Michael Levi
- Maxfield Vermy
- Allison Beauregard
- Abby Coyle-Richards
- Suray Nathan

Faculty Achievement

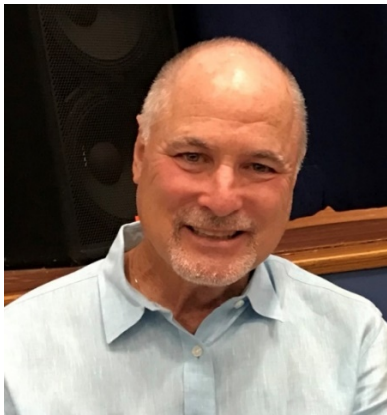
- **Kent, Robert B.** (2020) Review of Taking Back the Boulevard: Art, Activism, and Gentrification in Los Angeles by Jan Lin. *Journal of Urban Affairs* 42(6):950-952.
- **Olwert, C. T.,** Wang, C.-H., Arellano, V., & Oulrey, D. (2020). Retailer Behavior Near Fixed Transit Lines in Los Angeles: A Spatial Autoregressive Probit Model to Evaluate Retail Clustering. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*.
- **Dr. Zeynep Toker** received the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Student Success Impact Award.
- **Obsie, A., Woldeamanuel, M.G., & Woldetensae B.** (2020). Service Quality of Addis Ababa Light Rail Transit: Passengers' Views and Perspectives, *Urban Rail Transit*.

Faculty Achievement (continued)

- Deyas, G. & Woldeamanuel, M. G. (2020). Social and economic impacts of public transportation on adjacent communities: The case of the Addis Ababa light rail transit, *Research in Transportation Economics*.
- Woldeamanuel, M. G., Kent A., McGee M., & Carvajal S. (2020). Walk access to neighborhood parks: evaluating availability, quality and connectivity, *Journal of Urban Design and Planning*.

Faculty Spotlight

Professor Scott Howard holds a Juris Doctor degree from Southwestern University School of Law and a BS in business administration from USC. He is a Municipal Law Fellow with the International Municipal Law Association. At CSUN, he has served as a part-time faculty lecturer in urban studies and planning since 2012. He has taught both URBS 460 (Legal Foundations of Planning) and URBS 660 (Planning Law).



Pictured above: Mr. Scott Howard, Lecturer in Urban Studies and Planning Department

Scott comes to CSUN with over forty years of legal experience, much of it directly related to urban planning. He worked first as an in-house

city attorney for Glendale and he now works through a major municipal law firm as the city attorney for Calabasas and assistant city attorney for Ojai. His duties are wide ranging and include supervision and prosecution of all municipal code violations; research, drafting, trials and hearings in all phases of civil and administrative proceedings, including eminent domain; draft, review and approve contracts, resolutions and ordinances; provide training to elected and appointed officials, including planning commissioners and staff on various subjects including public hearings, due process, Subdivision Map Act, C.E.Q.A., Takings and AB 1234 ethics.

In his spare time, he enjoys his grandchildren, water sports, skiing, and traveling. In 2019 Scott and his wife cruised the Norwegian fjords and prior to the pandemic they regularly visited Boston to see their daughter. Scott lives near the beach in Ventura.

Master of Urban Planning (MUP), Up and Running

The fifth cohort of the Master of Urban Planning (MUP) program students will finish their course work in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning in May 2021. The department will welcome its seventh cohort of students and classes will began in Fall 2021. The Master of Urban Planning program is accepting applications!

Stay in Touch

The goal of The URBS Post is to maintain communication with our alumni, faculty, and students. We love correspondence from our alumni! Please keep in touch with us. We would like to know what you are doing, along with learning about exciting events and accomplishments in your life. Please keep us updated on any changes of home and e-mail addresses.

Internships

We are expanding our internship program. Let us know if your company offers internships and we will share this information with our students.

Donations

Please consider giving: no donation is too small. Donating provides both financial support and encouragement to students. [Visit our Giving Webpage](#) or call Dr. Rob Kent at 818-677-4372.

Let us know if you have suggestions on how we can improve our newsletter. We hope to hear from you soon!!

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