

IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE AN IMPROVEMENT?

multiplicity

Newsletter of the Pratt Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment
Issue 1, Summer 2009

I would need **SIX JOBS** to pay that kind of rent.

Is this the **only choice** we have?

How out of character for this neighborhood!

MAYBE IF I WIN THE **LOTTERY** I CAN LIVE THERE.

THAT IS ONE **BIG, UGLY BUILDING.**

Did my **neighborhood** plan for this?

Is this building environmentally friendly?

This might boost the **resale value** of my apartment

Do our economic development policies promote opportunity for all?

WHERE WILL MY CHILDREN LIVE WHEN THEY'RE OUT OF SCHOOL?

Another **CHAIN STORE** to put my shop out of business

What kind of tax **BREAKS & SUBSIDIES** made this happen?

Maybe I can rent out my spot to a Starbucks.

This will drive up prices.

Who's **THIS** for?

Now hiring, part time jobs starting at **\$7.15/hour**

That would be a great place for a child care center.

Finally **Pratt** School of Architecture
with that corner. What's **THAT** for there?



WELCOME from John Shapiro



Friends, faculty and students:

Welcome to the new electronic version of the GCPE's semi-annual newsletter, which is a forum to keep everyone "in the know" about the program, our students and faculty.

Since joining the GCPE this past summer, I've had the pleasure of working with extraordinary faculty as well as a highly supportive Dean and Pratt administration. The Program remains outstanding, and we are launching new initiatives and strengthening old ones.

Our course of study is unique among comparable planning programs. With a concern for community, history, and sustainability, our mission is to teach a new generation of practitioners who can be leaders as well as technicians.

The curriculum emphasizes real-world problem solving, social justice, and inter-disciplinary sharing. The faculty is drawn from the top expertise of

the New York City region. Our students represent an exciting mix in terms of prior work experience, geography, ethnicity and original area of study. We are lodged in the School of Architecture in a famous design school located in a diverse Brooklyn neighborhood, which combine to generate a creative energy for our programs. We are linked to the Pratt Center for Community Development, which is perhaps the nation's leading university-based advocacy planning organization. We learn, teach, and have an impact.

Building on the longstanding strength of the City and Regional Planning Program, and further riding on the newfound strength of the Environmental Systems Management and Historic Preservation Programs (led by Eva Hanhardt and Eric Allison, respectively) we are uniquely positioned to tackle the issues of today.

Nearly all of today's challenges hinge upon the future viability of our built environment and its relationship to the natural world. As Ron Shiffman points out, while Congress debates our government's financial deficit, we must also attend to the environmental and social deficits we leave future generations. More than ever, planners need to be well-versed in a range of subjects.

And in response, we are working on a new program of study that will bring it all under one roof. Stay tuned for a new lineup of exciting coursework and initiatives – a great way, I believe, to celebrate the Planning Program's 50th anniversary in 2009-10.

John Shapiro
Chair, Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment

Cover image from *One City/One Future: A Blueprint for Growth That Works for All New Yorkers*, a report co-published by the Pratt Center for Community Development. For the full report, visit prattcenter.net

Professor William Menking Serves as Commissioner of U.S. Pavilion at Venice Biennale Architecture Exhibition

GCPE professor Bill Menking served as commissioner and co-curator of the official U.S. pavilion at the 2008 Venice Biennale, the 11th International Architecture Exhibition, which was on view September 14 through November 23. The exhibition, *Into the Open: Positioning Practice*, explores the increasingly active role American architects, planners and community activists are having in shaping and engaging communities.

The show looks at 16 professional practices that are effecting positive change, becoming activists, developers and facilitators of a more inclusive urban policy, as well as producers of unique urban research. Their work “goes beyond building” by acknowledging the unique complexities of their environments.

“We like to label this exhibition the first architectural endeavor of the Obama presidency,” said Menking. “It is a call to arms for urban professionals across the country to seek out new forms of practice and to recognize that traditional methods of architecture need to adapt to meet contemporary life.” Menking organized the exhibition with co-curators Aaron Levy, Executive Director of Slought Foundation, and Andrew Sturm, Director of Architecture for the PARC Foundation.

Featured work includes initiatives by Pratt architecture professor Deborah Gans; The Edible



Stretching across the entire entryway to the exhibition is Teddy Cruz’s photographic reproduction of the fence that spans the U.S. border with Mexico at San Diego.

Schoolyard/Yale Sustainable Food Project; The Center for Urban Pedagogy; Estudio Teddy Cruz; The Heidelberg Project; and Jonathan Kirschenfeld Associates.

In addition, the exhibit served as the impetus for a new class taught by Menking this past semester at the GCPE, which focused more broadly on the ways in which architects are responding to social and environmental issues within their communities. As part of the course, students met with representatives from a handful of practices that were featured in the exhibition.

The course will be repeated in the spring 2010 semester or tie in to a new speaker series. Stay tuned...



Above: Co-curators Aaron Levy and Bill Menking in Venice; the exhibit re-opened this spring at Parsons The New School for Design in New York City.

Zero-Carbon Neighborhood Plan: Grad Architecture and Urban Design Partners with GCPE for Innovative Sequenced Studios



Clockwise from left: Students' vision for a "Sustainable Urban Commune" on a model block promoting energy efficiency in Bedford-Stuyvesant; Planning students Scott Grimm-Lyon (center) and Alisa Drooker (right) discuss sustainable development with members of the Broadway Triangle Community Coalition; An urban design analysis of solar and wind energy potential in Bed-Stuy.

In an effort to promote collaboration between departments, the GCPE teamed up in fall 2008 with Pratt graduate architecture and urban design students to work on a year-long sequenced studio. The studio challenged students to devise practical urban design solutions to reduce the carbon footprint of a model urban district. In this case, the study area was the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn.

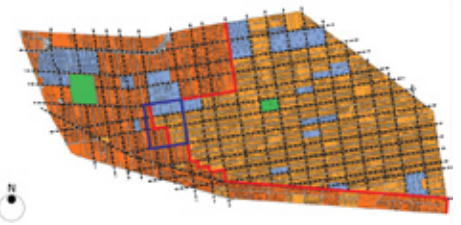
Urban design professors Viren Brahmabatt and Meta Brunzema led a group of graduate architecture students in the fall, who addressed a wide range of issues from water management and urban agriculture to renewable energy, the heat-island effect and education.

Metropolis Magazine featured the work of that studio in its December online edition. "The ultimate goal," said Brahmabatt in the *Metropolis* article, "is to create implementable urban-design and policy ideas for a model Special Sustainability District... The central-Brooklyn site, which

includes Bedford Stuyvesant and Pratt's Brooklyn campus, was selected because it includes a great variety of urban typologies, socioeconomic settings, as well as Pratt, an institution with a sound commitment to reducing its carbon footprint."

In the spring, professor Ron Shiffman joined Brahmabatt and Brunzema to continue the studio with planning students from the GCPE, who expanded on the research generated in the fall. Students worked out plans for an energy-efficient model block in coordination with the Pratt Center; developed innovative transportation and landscaping solutions for the neighborhood's street system; and created a sustainable redevelopment plan for the Broadway Triangle, a 50-acre site at the convergence of Bed-Stuy, Williamsburg and Bushwick, in coordination with community residents.

A group of students met regularly with the Broadway Triangle Community Coalition (BTCC), an alliance of more than 40 community groups and organiza-



tions, to prepare a comprehensive alternative plan in response to proposed re-zoning by the City. The City's plan, which was developed without input from neighborhood residents, does not include enough provisions for affordable housing, open space, economic development or sustainability.

Students presented their plan for the Broadway Triangle on May 8 at the annual APA New York Metro Chapter symposium of studio work from the five regional planning schools. On June 1, they also presented to a crowd of more than 200 community residents. In the coming months, students will continue to work with Shiffman and the BTCC to refine their ideas and advocate for a more transparent and participatory planning process.

COMMENTARY

Toward a New Strategy for the Vanderbilt Yards*

*The MTA rail yards for which Forest City Ratner's Atlantic Yards development proposal was made

by Ronald Shiffman, FAICP

The severe worldwide economic crisis that the nation and NYC face requires that decision makers rethink their economic development strategies and policies that were too often dependent on the private sector initiated "Ponzi Schemes" designed to leverage public resources and powers to generate private gain. These were often disguised in such a way as to promote desperately needed public sector goals. But given the financial and housing crises we now face, addressing these public needs is even more paramount. The challenge is this: How do we move beyond those poorly conceived public-private partnerships to come together to find short term and interim actions that can actually help get New Yorkers back to work and on a sustainable path to economic recovery?

I believe one way to rectify the situation is to re-evaluate some of those still open commitments in the context of today's economic realities. One critical place to start would be with the proposed Atlantic Yards development project in Brooklyn. No one can dispute the fact that the project – premised on an economic bubble that burst – is in financial difficulty. In reality,

there was never a need for more office space or luxury condominiums. Nor can we build a basketball arena that could not generate enough profits to reimburse the city and state for the public monies invested. The solution is not to abandon excellence in architecture as FCR is now doing but to embrace sound planning and design principles at the beginning of the process. The use of eminent domain to pursue these elusive goals, to benefit a single entity for a purported "public purpose" which many do not believe exists, is a violation of the public trust. The Mayor, the Governor, the Empire State Development Corporation and the MTA must all reconsider their support and recast this project in such a way that it sets the foundation for the area's future development based on sound planning and development principles – principles that neither compromise the role and responsibility of government, nor abuse their authority, nor squander our desperately needed and scarce financial resources.

To that end the city and state should set aside the yet-to-be-commenced Forest City Ratner (FCR) Atlantic Yards development proposal and undertake a

complete and immediate review of the project based on the following ideas, many of which are contained in the Unity Plan that grew out of a series of community sponsored design charettes (see unityplan.org):

- 1.** Vanderbilt Yards (the 8-acre MTA portion of the 22-acre Atlantic Yards proposed project site) should be prepared for the future development of affordable housing, parks and schools in order to serve the needs of the adjoining communities and weave those communities together.
- 2.** The preparation of the Yards would include needed infrastructure improvements.
- 3.** The planning and development of the Vanderbilt Yards should be overseen by a development entity and subject to an expedited ULURP review by the City of New York.
- 4.** The "Entity" established by the Proposed Atlantic Yards Governance Act should immediately move to plan and develop the MTA owned Vanderbilt Yards for mid-rise, high density housing with a least 50%

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2009-10 Overseas Course:

Sustainable Development
Planning Studio in Goa, India



This fall/winter, the GCPE international studio will bring students to the State of Goa, India, for two weeks to assist with the planning efforts for a local village.

Students will collaborate with local professionals to research applicable sustainable development strategies and technologies for selected issues in keeping with the State's recently adopted regional plan. The workshop will facilitate an inclusive and participatory planning process to identify priorities and strategies for growth.

During the first part of the studio, to be held in New York during the fall semester, students will attend seminars and conduct research. The actual trip will take place sometime between December 21 and January 15. Post-workshop reports will then commence through February 12.

Planning alumni or non-Pratt planning students and professionals are welcome to participate in the travel component of the studio in Goa for a fee of approximately \$1,200. This workshop component may be eligible for AICP credits.

For more information, contact Meenakshi Varandani at mvarandani@nycedc.com

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set aside for low and moderate income families. The remaining 50% should be made affordable to middle and upper-middle income families. This would require:

a. Completion of the work started to relocate the train tracks and completion of the rebuilding of the Carlton Avenue Bridge.

b. The disposition of the MTA sites to up to six different development teams (including FCR) selected via an open Request For Proposal.

5. There should be a five year moratorium on any construction of a Brooklyn basketball arena while the state and city conduct a two-tiered study to first determine the economic impacts and benefits to the state and city. If deemed beneficial, the state should undertake a study to determine a proper location for that facility without the use of eminent domain.

6. FCR should be required to upgrade and/or rehabilitate all existing buildings in the Atlantic Yards site in its possession for immediate occupancy by low to moderate income and displaced families, utilizing the funds already given to it by public sources. This would create construction jobs immediately, while providing needed affordable housing in the mid-term as well as some income for FCR.

7. Some of FCR's newly created vacant lots should be immediately cleaned up and used for the next five to ten years as an interim site for a tree nursery for the City of New York's PlaNYC2030 million tree planting initiative. Saplings can be raised on these sites for planting throughout the city over the next few years. This would provide jobs, help beautify the area, reduce the carbon levels in the Downtown Brooklyn area and provide a level of return for the City of New York in exchange for having advanced funds to FCR for acquisition of some of these sites.

8. The city and state should empower the "Entity" established by the Proposed Atlantic Yards Governance Act to engage with the diverse groups in the community and the relevant Community Boards to undertake a participatory planning process for the second phase of the development of the Vanderbilt/Atlantic Yards at the Flatbush Avenue end of the MTA owned site.

9. Finally, the city and state should look to this proposed process in order to forge a new approach to planning and development – one that makes the public interest the fundamental principle in their development efforts. The role of planning, development and the disposition of public property by either the city, state or quasi-governmental entities should be preceded by careful participatory planning rather than mere knee jerk responses to the advances by those whose interest in serving our collective need is only incidental.

Hello...



Cathy Herman

I find my current position as Director of Housing at Goddard Riverside Community Center (GRCC), a Settlement House that serves the West Side and West Harlem, to be incredibly fulfilling and a good fit with my experience and interests. GRCC operates five properties that serve low-income elderly or single people, many with special needs. I oversee all development and asset management of the portfolio and interface with a highly professional and experienced social service staff. I really enjoy the people I work with and the problem-solving aspect of the job. This work also feels like a continuation of my passion for serving on the front lines to better comprehend the forces that disrupt and displace people and their communities.

Over the current academic year I've had the pleasure of mentoring GCPE students writing their theses as well as those doing directed research. The latter course, on Housing Develop

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Laura Wolf-Powers

Currently, I am coordinating the Community and Economic Development concentration in the masters program in planning at the University of Pennsylvania with my colleague Domenic Vitiello. I teach the foundation course (Introduction to Community and Economic Development) and an economic development finance course. I also teach Urban Economics in the core curriculum. Eventually, I will be teaching a course on jobs and workforce development.

In December 2008, I published an article in the *Journal of Planning Education and Research* that was based on my research with two Pratt publications: the *Pratt Planning Papers* and *STREET Magazine* (see www.pratt.edu/newsite/xfer/citylegacies). Professor Bill Menking was also involved in this project.

Since getting to Penn I've taken on some new research related to how planning and policy can promote job ladders/eco-

Two former chairs **tell us** what they are up to these days

nomics mobility for less educated workers in the life sciences industries, which encompass healthcare, biotech research and biotech manufacturing. My colleague Marla Nelson and I won first place in the economic development category of the National Urban Policy Initiatives competition for our proposal, entitled *Job Chains and Career Ladders in Health Care: An Economic and Workforce Development Strategy For Greater New Orleans*. Our paper on job chains will be coming out later this year in the *Economic Development Quarterly*. I'm also revising a paper on Community Benefits Agreements, which I hope will be published soon.

I find my new job challenging and exciting, but I miss Pratt – not only the fact that I could get there from my house by bicycle, but also my great colleagues and students there!

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ment Project Implementation, enabled me to refine a curriculum I had in mind for a while. I collaborated with a colleague, architect Cindy Harden, and led Sarah Wick through the process of taking a complex project from loan closing through construction completion and rent-up.

This academic year, I'll be once again co-teaching the Housing Finance and Policy course at the GCPE with Frank Lang. It will probably take us all summer to update the class to reflect the considerable changes in the world of housing production and finance – not to mention politics – that have rocked the country over the past year.

I encourage all students to stick out the GCPE program, even in these tough times. I'm grateful for my academic training, as it enables me to bring an analytic, even quantitative approach to what can sometimes amount to overwhelming human, social or bureaucratic labyrinths. This discipline enables me and my team to set objectives that can be measured and, most times, even achieved.

Even though my new responsibilities and long commute to Upper Manhattan have prevented me from spending the kind of hours at the GCPE that I was able to last year, I continue to feel connected to the students, faculty and staff and am able to rest assured that the program is in such good and caring hands.

Brad Lander Says Goodbye to Pratt Center, Makes Bid for City Council



The following interview was originally published in Gateway, Pratt Institute's community newsletter (February 6, 2009). Brad is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the GCPE.

How long have you been at the Pratt Center?

Six years, but I've been part of Pratt much longer. I started as a student in the community devel-

opment program in 1994, earned my master's in city planning at Pratt in 1999, and have been teaching affordable housing, real estate, and community development here since 2000.

You will leave the Pratt Center in March to run for City Council. Why now?

I've had some wonderful years at the Pratt Center and 15 years in the field of community development. I've worked with thousands of remarkable community leaders in Brooklyn and around the city to create and preserve affordable housing, strengthen public transportation, help people find good jobs, and create better neighborhoods, but I've only seen a handful of elected officials at City Hall who come close to matching the passion and vision of these leaders. At a time when our city faces unprecedented challenges, I'm hoping to bring the energy of neighborhood groups, affordable housing advocates, grassroots labor leaders, and environmental justice organizers into City Hall. I'll be running to represent the 39th District, which covers the Brooklyn neighborhoods of Park Slope, Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens, Windsor Terrace, Kensington, and Borough Park.

What are the most pressing issues facing the district?

Even before the economy melted down, rising prices were pushing out low-income people, working families, small businesses, daycare, and senior centers, and new buildings were springing up at outrageous prices, out of scale with the neighborhood. The city was growing more and more unequal, with a few high-paying jobs on Wall Street, but mostly new retail and service jobs that didn't

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pay enough to get by. Now, with an economic crisis brought on by a mix of private greed and public irresponsibility, our problems are growing much worse. Our neighbors are losing their homes and jobs, and there will be pressure to cut critical public services. We've got to find a way to strengthen and preserve neighborhoods, to create sustainable jobs that help get us out of this recession, and to pioneer smart and cost-effective new strategies to improve our public schools and public transportation even as we have less to spend.

When did you first realize that you wanted to make a difference in the city's communities?

I've always believed that while city-dwellers face big challenges, there's something magical about how cities work. My time at Pratt—as a student and teacher in the Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment and at the Pratt Center—has only deepened and shaped those feelings. I'm honored to be one of many hundreds of students whose love of cities and neighborhoods has been shaped by Pratt's planning programs into a lifelong commitment to community development. They say New York is one part ambition, one part collective responsibility—and I think that's true, since we built the nation's first subways, its first public housing, and its biggest public and private works—but our failure to spread the benefits of growth to all communities is part of our shared history, too. I'd like to help turn that around.

What does your family think about you throwing your hat in the ring for City Council?

My wife, Meg Barnette, who also has a long history of working with not-for-profit groups and has amazing organizational skills, is the campaign treasurer. My kids Marek and Rosa, who are aged 9 and 5, are also excited and ready to work on the campaign. They are inspired by Malia and Sasha Obama, although we aren't promising them a dog at the end of the campaign. There's a lot more room in the White House than in our Park Slope home. We know it will take a toll on our family life, but we are also having a lot of fun so far, and feel excited to have a shared project to work on together.

Pratt Initiative for Arts, Community and Social Change Addresses Interdisciplinary Work, Food Justice and More

The Pratt Initiative for Arts, Community and Social Change (IACSC), which seeks to encourage and support students and faculty to use the power of the arts to further social change, has been very busy lately.

For Pratt's third annual Green Week in March, the IACSC organized a forum on food, social justice and urban agriculture. Representatives from the Weeksville Society, East New York Farms, and Brownsville EATS discussed community food initiatives over a communal meal of locally-grown and locally-distributed food.

On April 23, the IACSC hosted a panel discussion on interdisciplinary work and its potential as a catalyst for social change. Panelists included GCPE student Anusha Venkataraman and Rebecca Hernandez, GCPE Assistant to the Chair.

Each year, IACSC chairs Heather Lewis and Brynna Tucker teach the course "Arts, Culture and Social Change." The class brings together a diverse group of students at Pratt, from graphic designers to sculptors and city planners. Typically, students work on projects for a variety of not-for-profits, including, for example, the Groundswell Community Mural Project. This year, the course will be offered at the GCPE.

SPOTLIGHT:

Brian Sullivan

The following article was originally published in Gateway, Pratt Institute's community newsletter (April 17, 2009).

Before coming to Pratt, alumnus Brian T. Sullivan, M.S. City and Regional Planning '74, earned a B.S. in engineering at Villanova University. Pratt had been Sullivan's first choice for graduate work. "The Institute's clear sense of its own mission as an integral part of an urban community was very compelling to me," he says.

Since completing his studies, Sullivan has successfully pursued dual career paths: 25 years working for Pratt Center for Community Development (formerly PICCED), and 20 years teaching the graduate Neighborhood Planning studio at Pratt. At PICCED he worked at the cutting edge of the advocacy planning movement and shaped the way urban policy affects distressed neighborhoods throughout New York City. As an educator, he takes pride in having influenced many planners who today work for change through senior positions in city government and nonprofit community development organizations.

Sullivan recalls his first PICCED project on the north side of Williamsburg in the early 1970s. Fresh out of graduate school, he delivered impassioned speeches at City Hall



challenging an Urban Renewal condemnation of dozens of low-income homes, standing in front of a bulldozer with a court injunction in his hand, negotiating with city bureaucrats over an alternative redevelopment plan, and working out the details of the city's first mixed-use zoning designation. Taking encouragement from this early success, Sullivan decided to forsake an "exciting and lucrative career in cab driving" and threw himself into his work as an advocate planner at PICCED.

At PICCED he also met and married Catherine Herman, M.S. City and Regional Planning '75, who shares his commitment to progressive politics and who recently served as acting chair of Pratt's Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment. The couple and their two sons reside in Park Slope, Brooklyn, where Sullivan is a consultant to nonprofits that work with low income tenants who have special needs. An avid marathon runner in his youth, Sullivan still finds time to run in Prospect Park several days a week.

Award Recipients

PLANNING CONVOCATION AWARDS

American Institute of Certified Planners Outstanding Student Award: **RACHEL THIEME**

American Planning Association Metro Chapter Outstanding Student Award: **RACHEL BERKSON**

Commitment to the Profession Award: **TODD OKOLICHANY**

DEPARTMENTAL PLANNING AWARDS

Community-Planning Award: **SARAH WICK**

Commitment to Environment Planning Award: **GRACE LEE**

GCPE First-Year Outstanding Student Award: **MATTHEW GOSLINE**

ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT CONVOCATION AWARDS

Outstanding Merit Award: **ROSA ABRAMOWITZ**

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONVOCATION AWARDS

Excellence in Academic Achievement Award: **TARA KELLY**

Outstanding Merit Award: **DELANEY HARRIS-FINCH**

PRATT INSTITUTE AWARDS

"Quiet Leadership" Award: **ANUSHA VENKATARAMAN**

Professor **Ayse Yonder** Speaks at the World Urban Forum in China



Last November, Professor Ayse Yonder traveled to Nanjing, China, to make a presentation at the fourth World Urban Forum, a biennial meeting organized by the United Nations Human Settlements program (UN-HABITAT).

The Forum brings together a wide range of stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, professionals, academics, governments and local authorities to discuss issues of rapid urbanization and action-oriented proposals to create sustainable cities.

Dr. Yonder was invited to speak at the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) Roundtable, which focused on land governance within a grassroots and gender framework. Specifically, she talked about the process of developing gender criteria and indicators for evaluating and monitoring large scale land tools, such as land titling, land taxation or slum upgrading.

She described the contributions of the Huairou Commission, a global coalition of grassroots women's community development organizations that she works with, in the formulation of criteria that reflect the concerns and experiences of poor grassroots women from different parts of the world.

"Indicators are ways in which we measure current conditions and track our progress on specific issues," said Dr. Yonder. "When people have numbers about what really matters to them, they can negotiate better with experts and governments."

The next World Urban Forum will take place in Rio de Janeiro in March 2010. The theme of the conference is "The right to the City – bridging the urban divide."

The **Environmental Systems Management (EMS) Program**, under the leadership of Eva Hanhardt, has grown from five students in 2007 to over 20 students this academic year.

A new range of courses taught by NYC's leading environmental and sustainability professionals are also available to planning and preservation students, and they reinforce the Program's mission to join technical expertise and policy analysis that is based on a commitment to environmental and social justice.

Attention GCPE Alumni!

The City and Regional Planning Program at Pratt wants your thesis! Please send a full copy of your thesis and a one-paragraph summary to:

electronic (preferred):
johnshapiro@pratt.edu

via mail:

John Shapiro, Chair
GCPE, Pratt Institute
200 Willoughby Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11205

We are creating two collections of theses. Paper copies will be produced, bound and available at the Pratt Library. Electronic copies will be available at the GCPE offices: Higgins Hall, 61 St. James Street (Room 206).

We will scan hard copies, so let us know if you would like us to email an electronic version back to you. For a donation of \$100 or more, we can provide you with a bound copy as well.

Also, the Pratt Institute Planning Student Association (PIPSA) is putting together an active directory of all GCPE graduates. If you're an alum, please send your name and current e-mail address to:
info@prattplanning.org

Class Notes

MOSHE ADLER's new book, *Economics for the Rest of Us: Debunking the Science That Makes Life Dismal*, will be published in January 2010 by The New Press. At the GCPE, Moshe teaches courses on Urban Economics, Applied Demography and Statistics.

BECKY COLLINS (EMS student) is currently working on web-based content that documents the sustainability efforts of Pratt and its faculty. She is also working with NBC Universal to develop an internal website so different departments can track their progress on becoming more sustainable.

EMS program coordinator **EVA HANHARDT** and Facilities Management chair **HARRIET MARKIS** received a grant from the 2008-09 Pratt Faculty Development Fund. The grant will be used to hold a roundtable on the subject of "Green Collar job" opportunities in Environmental and Facilities Management, with a particular focus on interdisciplinary educational, research and retraining needs. The goal of the roundtable is to tap expert advice from both public and private sector practitioners on how the EMS and FM programs' curricula and research activities should be expanded, enhanced and/or modified. The event is planned for June 2009.

KAMDYN MOORE (EMS student) is currently conducting research and analysis for a comprehensive bicycle program for the Pratt campus in Brooklyn.

In December 2008, Urban design professor **SIGNE NIELSEN** was recognized with three awards at the American Society of Landscape Architects New York Chapter Design Awards and Holiday Party. Honor awards were given for her work on Hudson River Park, Segment 3 and Erie Canal Harbor; Queens West 7 took home a merit award.

In an effort to reduce Pratt Institute's carbon footprint, **AMANDA RUTKOWSKI** (EMS student) is conducting an analysis of the school's "urban forest," the results of which will be presented at the annual New York State ReLeaf Conference, to be held at Pratt July 16-18.

In June, Vision Long Island gave one of its 2009 Smart Growth Awards to the Glen Cove (Nassau County) Master Plan, prepared by GCPE chair **JOHN SHAPRIO** and his consulting firm, Phillips Preiss Shapiro Associates.

Professor **RON SHIFFMAN** was recently appointed by Governor Patterson to be a member of the New York State Brownfield Commission. On 6/24, he was the respondent and closing speaker at an all-day discussion on community infrastructures, which was held at the Center for Architecture in association an exhibition on view there. And in May, Ron participated in the 2009 Salzburg Congress on Urban Planning and Development Congress at Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria.

President Obama has nominated **MATHY V. STANISLAUS** to be assistant administrator for the office of solid waste and emergency response at the Environmental Protection Agency. Mathy, an environmental lawyer and chemical engineer who teaches at the GCPE, was confirmed for the position in May.

MARK STRAUSS (GCPE faculty) just returned from the AIA Convention in San Francisco, where he developed and participated in a panel entitled, "Four X Four: 4 Architects/4 Regions/4 Visions/4 the Future." The panel included leading practitioners from around the country who discussed planning and architecture in terms of public policy, the economy, new technologies and the future of the profession.

VICKI WEINER has been awarded a James Marston Fitch Charitable Foundation Mid-Career grant of \$25,000 for a new project entitled *Historic Preservation and Community Development: Protecting "Place" in Low Income Communities*. Vicki is Director of Planning and Preservation at the Pratt Center as well as a professor at the GCPE.

Faculty, Students and

Alumni: Please stay in touch, and tell us what you're doing these days! E-mail anything and everything to:

skawitzky@gmail.com

2008-2009 Graduates plus thesis titles

AMY ANDERSON

Green Building Industry and Green Collar Jobs

RACHEL BERKSON

Expired Urban Renewal Projects in the Upper West Side: What is next?

NANCY CAMPBELL

The Power, Changing Role, and Future of NYC CDCs: A Study of Flatbush Development Corporation

PRESTON JOHNSON

Beyond Bike Lanes: Design and Analysis of a Bicycle Facilities Plan for Brooklyn

GRACE LEE

Urban Food System Planning: Policy and Practice in New York City

LORI MASON

Planning for Sustainability in the South Bronx

JAMES RATNER

Issues Around the Annual Income Certification Process for Special Needs Tenants: Experiences from The Prince George

LISA SANTORO

An Educational Empire: New York University's Expansion Plan; Its Impacts on New York City and its Surrounding Communities

TANIA-LEE TAVARES

Revitalizing Commercial Corridors in Bedford Stuyvesant Communities

RACHEL THIEME

Industrial Ecology and Green Manufacturing in NYC

MARGOT WALKER

Rethinking NYC's Infrastructure Policy and Design

SARAH WICK

The Effects of the Subprime Mortgage Market Meltdown on Community Development

Donations most welcome.

Feel free to indicate how you would like the money spent:

1. General use.
2. Paid interns at the Pratt Center for Community Development, The Municipal Art Society, the New York Industrial Retention Network and other civic and community organizations.
3. The 50th Anniversary of the GCPE planning program, in spring 2010!

Make checks payable to the GCPE c/o John Shapiro.

Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment

Pratt Institute
200 Willoughby Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205
www.pratt.edu/gcpe

Eric Allison, Coordinator
Historic Preservation Program
eallison@pratt.edu

Eva Hanhardt, Coordinator
Environmental Systems
Management Program
ehanhard@pratt.edu

John Shapiro, Chair
City and Regional
Planning Program
johnshapiro@pratt.edu