We are proud to announce that our project, North Star Legacy Communities: A Florida Treasure, is the 2021 winner of the President’s Award in the annual Florida Redevelopment Association Awards. We are incredibly grateful for this honor, and appreciate everyone whose dedication and hard work made this possible.

Focused on preserving history and promoting Black-owned and local businesses in Jackson County, the Mark and Marianne Barnebey Planning and Development Lab launched the start-up of North Star Legacy Communities: A Florida Treasure. The project is located in Jackson County, an area of Florida where newly freed enslaved peoples and their descendants built communities that became the economic and social hub of African American life. North Star Legacy Communities: A Florida Treasure works to increase tourism, improve the economic status of small business owners and archiving Black history and stories that could have been lost to time. Two teams of DURP graduate students participated in this project.

Each year, FRA accepts entries for the annual awards from its members in a variety of categories, ranging from annual reports to cultural enhancement. The entries are examined for effectiveness and completeness – including the narrative, supplemental material and compliance with the submittal instructions. A cross section of Florida redevelopment professionals, individuals and business organizations judge and rank all of the entries and select the winners.

About FRA:
FRA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to assisting Florida professionals and volunteers in community revitalization efforts. With its mission of “transforming spaces, revitalizing places,” FRA is committed to providing a forum for its more than 300 members to share knowledge and common experiences regarding revitalization opportunities and issues throughout Florida.
DURP WELCOMES VISITING FACULTY MEMBER

Sowmya Balachandran is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the Florida State University. She holds an undergraduate degree in Architecture from Maharaja Sayajirao University (Vadodara, India), a Master’s in Urban and Regional Planning from CEPT University (Ahmedabad, India) and a Ph.D. in Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign.

She is an urban planning scholar, practitioner and educator on poverty, inequality, housing policy and community development. She has recently published in the journal Housing Studies and has forthcoming publications in the Journal of Planning Education and Research and Planning Theory. Sowmya is a mixed-methods researcher and recently completed her doctoral research titled, “Low-income homeownership for intergenerational mobility: the role of intermediaries in risk mitigation.” Located in the Greater Chicago region in predominantly African American and Latino neighborhoods, Sowmya’s research evaluates how community intermediaries influence the different stages of low-income homeownership, and the lived experiences of poor and minority communities as they navigate intrinsic precarity in daily life and extreme destabilization during shocks (like the housing and economic crisis of 2009 and the pandemic induced crisis of 2020). Sowmya has several new projects underway including one that evaluates affordable rental housing policy in India and another that evaluates federally assisted rental housing in the Gulf Coast states of the US.

NEW STRATEGIC PLAN WILL GUIDE FSU DURP FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

FSU DURP has spent the fall 2021 semester updating its strategic plan. The department appointed a steering committee including students (Alexander Austein and Kristin Gladwin), staff (Angela Arend), and faculty (Minjee Kim, Will Butler, and Jeff Brown) representatives to oversee the process which involves extensive alumni, student, staff, and faculty participation. The steering committee has used online surveys and targeted forums to solicit ideas and obtain feedback from our department’s key stakeholders at two points in the planning process: during the values, vision, and mission phase and during the goals and objectives phase. The surveys and forums have significantly influenced the emphases and details of the different pieces of the plan.

While the current strategic plan provided a good reflection of what FSU DURP already is, the new plan is designed to be much more propulsive, setting a clear direction for the department for the next five years. Underlying the plan are FSU DURP’s core values of being an inclusive, engaged, and transformative environment. The plan entails a deeper commitment to diversity and inclusion, increased mentoring and support of our students, staff, and faculty to achieve their full potential, continued improvement of our curricular offerings, and an increase in the quantity and quality of community-engaged and traditional scholarship and service that we provide. Department Chair Jeff Brown notes that, “Our overarching goal is for our programs, their students, and faculty to be recognized nationally as a top 10 planning master’s program and a doctoral program known for training outstanding teachers and planning scholars.” The plan will be adopted in December 2021, it will serve as an important resource to guide the department’s decision making over the next several years.

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The past year has continued to be both a challenging one and an exciting one. FSU DURP spent the spring 2021 semester largely operating remotely with students and faculty teaching and working away from campus. Summer and Fall brought us back together for the first time in more than a year and it has been a time of adjustment and reconnecting. It’s good to be back.

Over the past year, the members of the DURP community have continued to be active and engaged in their communities, classes, and research, and have again been recognized for their work. Our students received recognition for their outstanding community-engaged projects with two major awards. Our faculty and doctoral students presented and published a significant number of papers. Our faculty received grants to support exciting new projects that involve faculty and students. We welcomed a new faculty member to our department, Dr. Sowmya Balachandran, and we prepare to say farewell to another, Dr. Petra Doan, who will retire this coming year. We also undertook a new strategic planning process to move us forward and inspire us to greater excellence.

This newsletter offers a snapshot of some of the major events of this past year. We hope you enjoy it. And we urge you to continue to stay connected with us and let us know about your professional experiences and accomplishments so we can feature them when we tell the FSU DURP story.

- Jeff Brown
  Professor and Chairperson

Drs. Tisha Holmes, April Jackson, and William Butler along with post-doc Zechariah Lange, doctoral students Anthony Milordis and Bert Melix, and MSP students Paige DeBold and Tia Maxwell undertook a study of planning for climate justice and equity in Florida over the 2020-2021 year with funding from the Leroy Collins Institute. With sea level rise accelerating and threatening coastal communities with increased flooding, there is growing pressure on residents and businesses in coastal communities to find safer and higher ground. Meanwhile, in many of Florida's cities and counties, safer and higher ground is often home to lower income communities of color. Climate migrants have the potential to displace inland residents in a process called "climate gentrification".

Here is what Dr. William Butler had to say about this project:
"We selected Duval County (Jacksonville), Pinellas County (Tampa Bay), and Miami-Dade County for our research areas. We mapped demographic and housing market indicators to locate areas that were likely to be at risk of gentrification. Then, we conducted a plan analysis of 48 plans in Pinellas and Miami-Dade to identify what was already on the books to reduce the risk of displacement from the coast and protect affordable housing inland. Finally, we interviewed more than 30 actors from the 3 counties to seek further insights. We found that neighborhoods vulnerable to gentrification are experiencing neighborhood change, even before sea level rise is displacing many coastal residents. Meanwhile, development continues along the coast. Plans have strong policies on the books to protect affordable housing, but the housing crisis seems to be getting worse. Neighborhood and community activists are strong voices for putting climate gentrification on the radar and making changes that will make a substantive difference in stabilizing neighborhoods. We provide recommendations on developing an integrative strategy for addressing housing, hazards, and climate equity across agencies and jurisdictions."
Selected Faculty Publications

Dr. Minjee Kim and co author Dr. Tingyu Zhou had their paper "Does Restricting the Entry of Formula Businesses Help Mom-and-pop Stores? The Case of Small American Towns with Unique Community Character" accepted for publication in the Economic Development Quarterly Journal.

Dr. Kerry Li Fang and co author Joshua Drucker had their paper "How Spatially Concentrated are Industrial Clusters? A Meta-Analysis" accepted for publication in the Journal of Planning Literature.

Dr. Petra Doan and co author Ozlem Atalay published a chapter in the book Life and Afterlife of Gay Neighborhoods: Resurgence and Renaissance. Their chapter is titled "After the Life of LGBTQ Spaces: Learning from Atlanta and Istanbul."

Dr. Kerry Li Fang and co author Fujie Rao had their paper "When Industry Diversity Meets Walkability: An Analysis of Innovation in Baltimore, USA and Melbourne, Australia" accepted for publication in JPER.

Professors Jeff Brown (FSU DURP) and Dristi Neog (Westfield State University, DURP PhD Grad 2010) had their paper on Transit Ridership Growth in Small Urbanized Areas: Lessons from Seven U.S. Transit Systems accepted for publication in the Journal of Urban Planning and Development.

Faculty Awards and Recognitions

Dr. Kerry Li Fang received a Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Case Study Award for "Every Coin Has Two Sides: Understanding the Montgomery (MD) Transfer of Development Rights Program from Different Perspectives"

Dr. Minjee Kim received the COFRS grant from FSU Council on Research and Creativity. Her research project will examine how knowledge and expertise in real estate development affect the processes and outcomes of community benefit negotiation.

Dr. Tisha Holmes was one of six FSU assistant professors to receive the Florida Education Fund’s (FEF) McKnight Junior Faculty Fellowship, a program that promotes excellence in teaching and research by underrepresented minorities and women.

Dr. Petra Doan was appointed to the Haverford College Board of Managers (an initial three year term with possibility for a second term). The Board of Managers meets four times a year and performs all the functions of a Board of Trustees, making decisions about the overall direction of the college as well as overseeing the work of the President and their top administrators. There are approximately 30 managers most of whom are graduates of the college. She will also be serving on two Board sub-committees. The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-racism Committee and the Educational Affairs Committee. Petra said, "I look forward to this work, but do find it quite interesting after 32 years as a professor at FSU to now be in spot that provides a vastly different perspective on higher education."
Student Achievements

MSP Graduate (class of 2021) Cassidy Kearney worked on “Natural Community Ecology Along the Florida Trail” as part of her internship with the US Forest Service. This collection of story maps details the unique ecological topics, region by region, throughout the 1,500 miles of the Florida Trail. The regional components highlight interesting natural communities in their areas, share interpretive information, high-quality photos, and connect users to sections of trail that they can explore.

PhD student Yijia Wen presented her research “How does the collaborative network structure affect innovation under economic shock?” at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) 2021 Annual Conference. The work is under the supervision of Dr. Kerry Li Fang.

The Fall 2021 Studio is working on the Providence Neighborhood Plan Refresh to update Providence's 2003 Neighborhood Renaissance Plan. They are recording the status of all 181 action items originally identified in the 2003 plan, undertaking community engagement efforts to seek residents’ input on the plan refresh, and ultimately delivering an Implementation Strategy Report that will provide Providence leaders and other stakeholders with strategies for completing tasks under the five neighborhood priority areas.

In October, DURP PhD student Kristin Gladwin presented the findings from her doctoral dissertation entitled “Cycling through the Covid-19 pandemic: A case study of older adults' bicycle behaviors and experiences in Tallahassee, Florida” at the Cycling Research Board's annual meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark. The trip was made possible by support from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, as well as through the Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy’s Aging Conference Travel Grant.
Congratulations to the 2021 recipients of the FSU DURP Edward McClure Award for Academic Achievement: Alexander Dally, Annya Shalun, Benjamin Naselius, Billie Ventimiglia, Daria Kosheleva, Elio Fernandez, Joshua Stahle, Kailon Thompson, Katherine Wegrzyn, Max Hoffman, Melanie Flores, and Paula Perez.

Congratulations to this year’s recipient of the Departmental Service Award, Cassidy Kearney, for her stellar service to the students and the department.

Patrice Williams was the winner of the 2021 Marsha Ritzdorf Award for the Best Student Work on Diversity, Social Justice and the Role of Women in Planning. Her winning paper entitled, Greenspace Redevelopment, Pressure of Displacement, and Sleep Quality Among Black Adults in Southwest Atlanta, was unanimously selected by the awards committee.

Congratulations to the two recipients of the Chris Kochtitzky Award for Academic Excellence, Kailon Thompson and Paula Perez. The award honors a student (or students) who has shown excellence during their time in the MSP program exemplified by high academic achievement; notable contributions in service to the department, community, or profession; and exemplary performance in their professional pursuits. The award memorializes the contributions of alum Chris Kochtitzky to planning.

Alexander Dally was nominated for APA Florida Student of the Year. This nomination is given to a student who has the potential to make a significant impact on professional planning practice.

The faculty unanimously selected Billie Ventimiglia as our outstanding recipient of the AICP Outstanding Student award. Her name will be added to the AICP Outstanding Student Award website maintained by the American Planning Association. The award recognizes “excellent performance in classroom responsibilities during degree studies and excellent performance in professional activities out of class, including but not limited to extracurricular university activities, professional employment, and/or service to professional organizations or communities.” The faculty unanimously selected Billie as our outstanding recipient of this award. She has subsequently been hired as Senior Planner for the Barnebey lab.
DURP Staff and Students Attend the 2021 FAPA Annual Conference

DURP faculty, staff and students made a strong showing at the 2021 Florida American Planning Association annual conference in Miami, FL. This year’s theme is Savor Diversity. Through supporting conference check-in, staffing a table and hosting several sessions, our world class planning program reinforces its commitment to FAPA, diversity, and professional development.

Giving Back to DURP

The Department of Urban and Regional Planning wishes to thank the many firms, families, and individuals that gave to Florida State University last year to help support DURP’s students, programs and activities. These gifts have been put to excellent use in supporting graduate students, bringing in outside speakers to classes and events, and allowing the department to put on events such as the DURP Tailgate and Convocation.

Thanks to the generous support of our donors these gifts go a long way towards helping the department maintain its excellence in a trying fiscal climate. Remember that there are many ways to give and that no gift is too small.

If you are interested in giving to DURP, please contact Department Chair Jeffrey Brown (jrbrown3@fsu.edu) or College of Social Sciences and Public Policy Assistant Dean for Development Cindy Michelson (cmichelson@foundation.fsu.edu)

To learn more about our program:

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