Barnebey Gift Strengthens DURP’s Leadership in Applied Planning Work

The FSU Department of Urban and Regional Planning is well-known for the award-winning projects that students have completed under the direction of our Planner-in-Residence through the Florida Planning and Development Lab. Our student projects have received both state and national awards for work that has had a direct impact on the clients and communities that we have served.

We are very pleased to announce that Mark Barnebey (MSP/JD 1983) and Marianne Barnebey have made a generous gift to support the newly renamed Mark and Marianne Barnebey Planning and Development Lab and Studio (nicknamed “The Barn”) that will allow us to continue this tradition of excellence. Their gift will provide resources that will allow our faculty to continue to provide real-world planning project experience to our students and support our students as they pro-

McNeilage Gift Supports Cross Disciplinary Planning and Real Estate Education

Since 2017, FSU’s Department of Urban and Regional Planning in the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy and the FSU Real Estate Program in the College of Business have partnered to teach a course each spring (URP 5939 Planning and Real Estate Development) that brings together planning and real estate students. The course requires students to use their knowledge about land use regulation, land development, and development finance to collaborate on a proposal to develop a real-world site. Co-taught by Ms. Lindsay Stevens, JD, AICP and Ryan Dietz, M.B.A., the course is made possible by the generous gifts of individuals such as Mr. Bruce McNeilage.

Mr. McNeilage, is the Nashville-based co-founder and CEO of Kinloch Partners, Kinloch Homes, LLC, and Harpeth Development, LLC. A very successful developer of residential properties, Mr. McNeilage began his real estate development career in Fort Lauderdale with a single property, and he has since developed everything from single family homes to entire subdivisions in five states. Mr. McNeilage’s firm focuses on developing high quality, moderately-priced housing for the middle class. A strong believer in the importance of home ownership as a vehicle for long-term prosperity, he worries that the long-running decline in home ownership is having significant negative impacts on middle class households who are less able to tap their home’s equity to finance their children’s college education.
Message from the Chair

DURP has tremendous alumni and friends, and so many of you have given back to the department in truly incredible ways. You’ve generously given of your time as mentors, guest speakers, and professional contacts for jobs and internships, and you’ve provided us with resources through donations to our endowments that provide assistance to students in the form of financial aid and conference travel grants. You’ve helped us to provide a truly excellent educational experience to our students. We thank all of you for your incredible generosity.

We’d particularly like to thank the individuals whose gifts are highlighted in this issue of the Alumni Newsletter. The naming gift given by Mark and Marianne Barnebey will allow us to incorporate new technology and other resources into the critically important studio experiences we provide to our students. The gift given by Bruce McNeilage will allow us to continue to deliver the cross-disciplinary planning and real estate course that has provided students with the real-world opportunity to better understand the perspectives of other actors in the land development process. We thank all of them so much for their generosity.

This year we wished longtime faculty member Rebecca Miles best wishes as she retired after a very impactful career at Florida State. We also welcomed two new faculty to the department, Kerry Fang and Minjee Kim, who will strengthen our offerings in land use planning, economic development, and real estate development. And we sent two graduates of our doctoral program to positions at other universities where they will help to educate the next generation of planning professionals.

2018 was a very busy year indeed. We look forward to what 2019 will bring.

Living Fully After Retirement by Rebecca Miles

I retired from the university this past May after nearly 30 years of serving on the faculty at Florida State University, 25 of which were in the Department of Urban & Regional Planning. I promised myself I would not rush to fill my days with structured commitments to replace the work activities I was so used to carrying out. I wanted to see what would ‘bubble up’ if I left myself open, and to be more intentional than ever about what I said ‘yes’ to and what I chose not to take on.

A trip out West that my husband thought up and that I soon embraced as enthusiastically as he did, was a great way to make a clean break from my prior work life. I have spent time in 25 countries in the world over my lifetime and had not yet explored many parts of my own country. We hiked and camped with our small trailer for two and a half months in national parks and wilderness areas, state and county parks, in awe of the beauty of the natural areas they protect. We traveled all the way to British Columbia where we gathered with my children and their partners and all of my immediate family, for the joyous celebration of the wedding of one of my nieces.

In retirement, I have deepened my participation in the Tallahassee Area Threshold Choir. We are a group of women who bring “comfort through song to individuals and their loved ones at challenging thresholds of living and dying” (see https://thresholdchoir.org/Tallahassee). I also had the great joy of attending a five-day Threshold Choir All-Choir Gathering in Boulder, Colorado, that brought together singers from all around the US and even some from other countries (see https://thresholdchoir.org/).

I am also continuing a study that I initiated during the 7 months I spent in southern India in 2016-17, based in Thiruvananthapuram in the state of Kerala, supported by a Fulbright-Nehru Academic & Professional Excellence Research (Continued on page 7)
Faculty News

Chris Coutts’ Fulbright Grant Will Support Work in Malawi

Christopher Coutts, associate professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, has received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar grant to teach and conduct research at Mzuzu University in Malawi. He will conduct research aiming to advance understanding of the relationship between nature conservation and people’s health in developing countries.

“The natural environment is the earth’s life-support system, and I will work with Malawians in the field to identify and inventory natural elements that support citizens’ most fundamental daily needs,” Coutts said. “Malawians can then prioritize these elements for conservation in ecologically sensitive land-development plans.” In addition, Coutts will present a series of lectures on the myriad health benefits of land conservation.

“I was a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Malawi from 1998-2000, and this transformative experience inspired my current research focus,” he said. “I made myself and my Malawian friends a promise when I left that I would return to contribute to the sustainable development of Malawi and the well-being of its people. This Fulbright grant is the first step in fulfilling that promise, and I am sincerely grateful for the support from FSU to help me achieve this honor.”

Welcome New Faculty: Kerry Fang and Minjee Kim

Kerry Fang joined DURP as an Assistant Professor in fall 2018. She received her Bachelor and Master’s degrees in Land Management from Zhejiang University and doctor’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning and Design from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Her research focuses at the intersection of economic development and land use. She leverages industrial policies and land use planning to support innovation and entrepreneurship. Her research agenda is inter-disciplinary and international, with methodologies ranging from econometrics, statistics, data science and sociology, and areas of study covering United State, China, Australia and Russia.

Minjee Kim received her Ph.D. and Master’s degrees in urban planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is interested in studying the ways in which planners and real estate developers work collaboratively to create places that are socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable.

Throughout her time at MIT, Minjee worked with the planning departments of Cambridge and Boston to gain firsthand experience in planning practice. Her goal thus has been to pursue academic research that has direct and practical implications for improving contemporary planning practice.
Student Awards & Events

DURP Students Win State Project Awards

Two of Florida’s major planning associations recently recognized a cutting-edge DURP student project for its outstanding contributions to innovative planning practices in Florida. A student-team including Marshall Anderson, Glennika Gordon, Chris Ibarra, Jenna Osbun, Ronnie Lee Shelly Jr., and Ryan Wenger were awarded the APA Florida’s 2018 Outstanding Student Project Award and the Florida Planning and Zoning Association’s 2018 Innovation Award for their exemplary work on the *Autonomous Vehicle Policy Guide for Public Transportation in Florida MPO’s* project. Under the direction of Planner-in-Residence, Dennis Smith, the project was completed for the Florida Department of Transportation as part of the Fall 2017 Studio capstone project.

Utilizing an innovative and collaborative process, the student team developed a policy guidance document that provides practice-ready recommendations, and policy language that Metropolitan Planning Organizations can incorporate into their long range transportation plans today to address the state’s mandate to incorporate AV technology into long-range plans and to capitalize on the exciting opportunities that AV technology provides. The high quality and professionalism displayed in the *Autonomous Vehicle Policy Guide* represents FSU DURP’s continuing tradition of excellence. DURP students have won APA Florida’s Outstanding Student Project Award six out of the last seven years, including the last four in a row.

PhD Student Invited to NIH Workshop

Patrice Williams (pictured left), a PhD student, was invited to an invitation-only NIH Workshop entitled the “The Role of Sleep in Health Disparities: Causes and Health Consequences” on June 20 - 21, 2018 in Rockville, Maryland. The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) and the National Institute of Minority Health & Health Disparities (NIMHD) collaborated on this workshop with the goal to enhance understanding of research approaches that can effectively integrate health disparities pathways with sleep biological mechanisms and to identify gaps, opportunities and strategies for future research directions for etiology and multilevel interventions to address sleep health disparities. To that end, NHLBI and NIMHD brought together sleep experts and health disparities experts to discuss potential strategies that integrate sleep biological mechanisms with pathways that explain health disparities through multidisciplinary/transdisciplinary research designs. Patrice submitted a NIH application entitled “Sleep problems among Blacks under pressure of displacement” that examines to what extent does the pressure of displacement associated with green redevelopment contributes to stress-related sleep disturbances among Black populations. This was a great opportunity for Patrice to be a part of a larger conversation with sleep and health disparities experts on the multilevel factors that impact sleep problems.
Faculty News continued

FPDL Produces Impactful Applied Work

Under the direction of DURP’s Planner-in-Residence Dennis Smith, the FPDL has completed a series of outstanding studio projects. In the Spring of 2018, a team of DURP students partnered with StarMetro and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to conduct a comprehensive assessment of how well StarMetro’s stop infrastructure and route network served the needs of special and disabled populations. The Summer Studio then began a two-phase project for FDOT evaluating how future transportation risks from sea-level rise to autonomous vehicles could affect Florida Transportation system over the next 50 years. This project was designed to inform FDOT’s upcoming update of the 50-year Florida Transportation Plan that guides the State’s transportation planning initiatives. The second phase of this project is currently underway by the 2018 Fall Studio.

In addition to studio projects, the FPDL has continued to bridge the gap between academic and professional planning by conducting two applied research projects in the Orlando Metro area evaluating the success and impact of the SunRail commuter rail system. The first of these projects led by Associate Professor Dr. Michael Duncan was completed for FDOT to evaluate the property value changes and development-related tax revenues associated with SunRail’s opening in 2014. This project represents an update to a study completed in 2015. By continuing to evaluate SunRail impact over time, this study provides state and local planner with a better understanding of the fiscal impacts of rail systems that extend beyond the fairbox.

The FDPL partnered with the FSU Geography and Civil Engineering Departments to conduct a concurrent project for MetroPlan Orlando to better understand the potential connections between transit-oriented development and commuter rail in Orlando. As part of this process, the team identified who lives and works within the station areas while determining what factors might influence someone’s decision to use SunRail. This study focused on whether SunRail station areas were functioning as TODs and provided direction for decision makers to promote a transit-oriented Central Florida.

DURP Adopts Diversity and Inclusion Plan

The faculty at DURP have developed a strategic plan for diversity and inclusion based on the premise that our graduates face an increasingly diverse world, community and workplace in the future. To be better prepared to engage as planners, policy makers, analysts and activists in that world, we have a responsibility to integrate diversity and inclusion into our department’s core activities of teaching, research and service. The plan that we have implemented can be found at: https://coss.fsu.edu/durp/sites/default/files/Diversity_and_Inclusion_Strategic_Plan_Aug_2018.pdf

As part of our plan activities, we have committed to assessing the culture and climate of the department on a regular basis to ensure that we can identify the challenges to creating a welcoming and safe learning environment for all. To that end students went out to the students at the end of October. You can see a copy of the survey by clicking clicking: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd1dRq3DczO6btsjepw_H-a2XIfciDPAWx_DlsBO_aTZ2vWuA/viewform

Congratulations to Professor John Felkner who has been recognized with the Transformation through Teaching Award at FSU. Transformation Through Teaching is a program established through the Spiritual Life Project to honor full-time faculty that have had an intellectual, inspirational, and integrative impact on the lives of their students. The Spiritual Life Project fosters students’ search for meaning, purpose, and authenticity in life, deepens their self-understanding, broadens their awareness of diverse perspectives and themselves as global citizens, and develops a sense of commitment to higher ideals. Dr. Felkner was nominated by his students in DURP for this recognition.
Barnebeys Support Applied Work

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vide meaningful and impactful guidance to the clients and communities we serve.

Mark Barnebey says that they gave to FSU DURP to help the department “strengthen its leadership in sound and practical planning application throughout the Southeastern United States. Florida, in particular, is a state of constant change and challenges balancing urban development pressures with property rights of owners. With my service as a local government and development attorney and my wife having served on city council, we understand the importance of having well educated planners to provide sound advice and quality skills in this field. The planning lab provides a direct connection for the university to assist local governments and developers in creating superior plans and planning tools.”

He sees the Mark and Marianne Barnebey Planning and Development Lab and Studio as providing opportunities for students to engage in meaningful applied work that aids their professional development. “One of the challenges for any university is to create real world opportunities and experiences to allow students to understand the interesting dynamics that go into planning and land development. The planning studio and lab provides students with an opportunity to deal directly with local officials, developers, and residents and understand the various goals and concerns that each group may have in preparing planning documents and development plans. For a successful planning effort, it is important for students to appreciate these dynamics and it is our hope the Mark and Marianne Barnebey Planning and Development Lab and Studio will aid in students in their efforts to becoming outstanding planners, developers, or government officials.”

To achieve the Barnebeys’ goal of creating superior products for decision makers, students need an equally superior workspace. The high-quality work environment, which their gift makes possible, will position our students to maximize the synergies afforded by access to the best available communications, computing, and planning production technology. Dennis J. Smith, AICP, the Planner-in-Residence, says that, “through the Barnebeys’ generous donation, the Department’s re-envisioned planning lab, soon to be dubbed “The Barn”, will become not only a state-of-the-art workspace, but also like a second home to students on their way to becoming Florida’s next generation of planning leaders.” The Department’s high-quality work products – a hallmark of both student studios and other lab efforts - will also be amplified by these enhanced capabilities. The gift allows DURP not only to keep up with other planning schools, but to greatly outpace them with respect to the tools and learning environment we offer our students. In turn, through their efforts, this gift will have a multiplier effect across communities throughout Florida and the nation.

McNeilage Supports Planning and Real Estate Education

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and thus attain a standard of living that at least meets that of their own.

Mr. McNeilage had no formal classes in real estate or planning. He sees the course providing an incredible opportunity for planning and real estate students. “The course gives students an opportunity to learn about the development process before they enter the real world. The opportunity to apply their knowledge to a real world project gives them knowledge and insights well beyond that which can they can obtain from a book. This training might help them to become successful earlier in their careers than I was. I could have been successful 15 years earlier if I had the opportunity to take a course like this one.”

Course co-instructor Lindsay Stevens says that “this course provides students with the opportunity to engage with established professionals in the real estate, development and planning industries throughout the semester. The course culminates with students working on an interdisciplinary team to produce a comprehensive redevelopment proposal that is presented to a panel of industry and public sector leaders, much in the same way that a private development team responds to a public RFP. At the end of the day, this class helps students understand the perspectives and needs of the planning and real estate sectors in both the public and private realms, in a manner that closely mirrors professional practice.” Thanks to Mr. McNeilage’s generosity we are able to provide this wonderful course experience to our students.
Living Fully After Retirement

(Continued from page 2)

Award. A main focus of my fieldwork there was a program that started in 2015 in two rural areas in Kerala that is attempting to build community from the ground up that is inclusive of older people. The so-called Elderly Inclusion Program sees older people as persons who can contribute to the society and economy in countless ways, and not merely as a dependent group in need of services. It promotes community-building as well as the provision of valuable services and benefits. One of its core features is the creation of a community network of Neighborhood Groups (NHGs) based on the premise that all women and men 60 years of age and older who live in close proximity to one another have the opportunity to belong to an Elderly NHG.

I imagined when I designed the study that it would be of interest both in the place where the program was created and here in the US. I am gratified to see early signs that this is the case. In Kerala, the paper I wrote based on my field work has been published as a part of a working paper series at the Center for Development Studies where I was based during my stay. You can find the paper here: http://cds.edu/research/ru/government-of-kerala-endowment-unit-on-local-self-governments/ruleg-lateral-studies-series-on-kudumbashree/. Along with the other two papers, it was translated into the state language of Kerala, Malayalam, and presented to officials and professionals at the annual gathering of the non-governmental organization running the program.

And here in Tallahassee, I was invited to present at the College of Social Sciences’ Policy Pub which encourages faculty to share their knowledge and experience beyond academia and to “connect with experts and fellow citizens in an informal atmosphere” (https://coss.fsu.edu/policy-pub). I extended my study to address the question “Local organizations supporting aging-in-place: What can we learn from Kerala?” in anticipation of a local audience interested in US policy and practice and how to better support and care for the beloved older people in our lives. The question may seem backwards to many of you. What could we possibly learn about elder care and services from a developing country?!? The lively discussion after my Policy Pub talk suggests there is much we can learn from Kerala, as well as ways we would need to adapt the Kerala experience to the realities of US society and institutions. You can find the audio file of my Policy Pub talk and my Powerpoint slides here: https://coss.fsu.edu/node/527. Scroll all the way to the bottom of the page for the links.

The presentation and conversations it has sparked inspired me to extend my thinking in a post to the College blog “Wicked Problems, Wicked Solutions”, and to address the question “What is the value of a place-based association of older people”? I noted that Elderly Neighborhood Groups are not necessarily the only civil society organizations that older Keralans belong to. They also may be involved in a group based in a temple, church or mosque for example, or in an association of retired professionals, or a social club. However they are the only groups that bring older people into regular contact with others who live in the same small area as they do.

You can find my blogpost here: https://wicked-solutions.blog/2018/09/25/neighborhood-groups-of-older-people-help-build-inclusive-community/. This is an ongoing conversation and line of research of great interest to me. I welcome your comments, questions, and insights! You can reach me at rmiles1208@gmail.com.
DURP’s Vision and Mission Statements

Vision Statement
The Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Florida State University strives to train professionals who are change agents in their communities; create research that transforms practice and scholarship; and promote sustainability, social justice, and the well-being of all persons.

Mission Statement
The Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Florida State University enrolls a diverse set of students and educates them to think critically, exhibit technical competence, and effectively engage the political process. The department conducts research and provides service that contributes to a better understanding and shaping of resilient communities and ecosystems in order to promote human capabilities, equity, sustainable livelihoods, and healthy and safe places locally and globally. The department recognizes a particular responsibility to document, examine, and enhance planning in the State of Florida.

Stay in Touch with DURP

DURP Department Website: [http://www.coss.fsu.edu/durp/](http://www.coss.fsu.edu/durp/)

DURP Department Listserv: To post announcements, internship, or job opportunities, please send an e-mail to: durp@coss.fsu.edu

Join DURP Alumni Listserv at: [https://lists.fsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/durpalumni](https://lists.fsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/durpalumni)

DURP Facebook Page
Go to Facebook and join the [FSU DURP](https://www.facebook.com/fsu.durp) group.

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 Jeff Brown ([jrbrown3@fsu.edu](mailto:jrbrown3@fsu.edu)) or College of Social Sciences and Public Policy Assistant Dean for Development Cindy Michelson ([cmichelson@foundation.fsu.edu](mailto:cmichelson@foundation.fsu.edu)).