



REGIONAL PLANNING ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Michele Brooks (REPL & ENVS 2016) Wins Stephanie B. Kelly Award

The GARP Faculty presented the fourth **Stephanie B. Kelly Regional Planning Award** to graduate Michele Brooks. In addition to her degrees in Regional Planning and Environmental Science, Michele has completed her GIS Minor. After graduation Michele plans to work in the environmental grassroots and policy field after graduation. Congrats!

Inside this issue:

Senior Awards	1
Dr. Leiker Honored	2
Faculty News	2
Alumni Bios	3-4
Graduates and Alum	5
More news	6
SNEAPA 2016	6

Burns, Clayton, Hardaker earn Academic Excellence



Western Massachusetts that affirmed for her that she was pursuing the right field of study. Georgiann will work in the area of environmental research and planning and intends to 'never stop learning.'

Patrick, from Billerica, Massachusetts, (REPL and POLS) plans to apply to graduate school next year to pursue a Master's in Regional Planning with a focus on Urban Design or a Master's in Landscape Architecture. Prior to that, he hopes to start his career working in planning or development, working with design, neighborhood revitalization and community development in either the public or private sector. Patrick studied abroad in Edinburgh, Scotland, in the fall of 2014. He contributed to a report on the Westfield Bicycle Pedestrian Planning Advisory Committee by surveying the downtown community. He also worked with a Holyoke community development corporation focusing on Early Childhood Development in South Holyoke.

Coming fall events

- GIS Day in November (<http://www.gisday.com/>)
- SNEAPA in Hartford CT (<http://www.sneapa.org/>)
- NESTVAL in Montreal (<http://nestvalonline.org/>)

From left to right: Robert Bristow, **Kane Hardaker**, **April Clayton**, **Pat Burns** and **Michele Brooks** with **President Ramon S. Torrecilha**.

Kane (REPL and ENVS) also completed a minor in GIS. A member of the University Honors Program, Kane's Senior Honors Project title was on the Regenerative Agriculture in the Peruvian High Amazon. He was chosen as the Student Speaker for the 2014/2015 First-Year Convocation. Kane plans to pursue a career in sustainable agriculture.

April (REPL and ENVS) is from East Hartford, Connecticut. Georgiann was inducted to the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Her most memorable undergraduate experience was a Geography class trip touring

Prof. Leiker is honored for 40 years at Westfield



In the late 1970s Professor Leiker joined Westfield State College. Professor Leiker introduced behavioral geography and a series of meteorology courses that evolved into the weather-climate program supporting the growing and interdisciplinary Department of Geography. Shortly thereafter, Leiker worked with the late Peter Bulkley, an urban history professor, and GARP Professor Bennett and began developing the B.S. in Regional Planning. In 1983 the Geography Department became the Geography and Regional Planning Department and began granting B.S. degrees in regional planning. This date marked the inception of the illustrious Regional Planning Program, which has had a 33 year history of educating insightful, successful planners for the Commonwealth. As the only public college in the Massachusetts offering an Undergraduate Regional Planning degree, Dr. Leiker was instrumental in developing a strong planning education program that offers a foundation in physical and social geographic theory as well as pragmatic techniques to solve city and environmental problems.

Dr. Leiker has presented dozens of paper with a meteorological theme over the decades at national (e.g., Association of American Geographers, Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society) and international conferences (e.g., International Medical Geography Symposium, 15th International Congress of Biometeorology and the International Conference on Urban Climatology). These papers span his career and are too numerous to list here.

Dr. Leiker is well known for his informative, interesting and entertaining take on current weather conditions. Besides teaching the core lab science class in Physical Geography, Dr. Leiker also teaches Severe and Unusual Weather and Meteorology every year. These are popular courses for our students and others wishing to become more weather literate.

GARP Faculty Scholarship

Braun, C. Presented "Mapping (Shrinking) Glaciers Using GPS, GIS, and Remote Sensing: Examples from the Canadian High Arctic, Peru, Venezuela, and Kilimanjaro." Spring 2016 NEARC Conference, 9 May 2016, UMass Amherst.

Chadwell, C.D., Hardy, D.R., **Braun, C.**, and Brecher, H.H. and L.G. Thompson: Thinning of the Quelccaya Ice Cap over the last thirty years. *The Cryosphere Discussion*, in review.

Bristow, R. and Yang, Y. (2015), Sea, Sun, Sand and Selecting Surgery: an Exploration of Health, Medical and Wellness. *Human Geographies*. (9) 2:117-129.

Bristow, R. and Jenkins, I. presented paper "Acceptance of Sustainable Practices for Local Food: An International Example." 24th Nordic Symposium of Tourism and Hospitality Research, Reykjavik, Iceland. (international conference presentation grant \$2600)

Bull, MJ presented "The Ethics of Public Participation," and "Creating a Culture of Participation," Tennessee Chapter APA Regional Conference, Sept 2015. Chattanooga, TN. April 2016.

Bull, MJ. Presented "Inside/Outside: An Equity Planning CPAT Experience," and CPAT Dispatches: Struggling Town," APA National Conference, April 2016. Phoenix, AZ.

Conz, B. and Holford-Diana, V. (2015). 'Keeping it Real and Getting Muddy: First-Year Composition Meets Physical Geography in Stanley Park.' *Double Helix: A Journal of Critical Thinking and Writing*, vol. 3.

LeDoux, T. F., & Conz, B. (Accepted). Hunger for Justice: Building Sustainable and Equitable Communities in the Pioneer Valley. In: WinklerPrins, A. (ed.) *Global Urban Agriculture: Convergence of Theory and Practice between North and South*, CABI International.

LeDoux, T. F., Vojnovic, I, Thomas, J. M., & Pothukuchi, K. (In Review). Standing in the Shadows of Obesity: The Local Food Environment and Obesity in Detroit. *Tijdschrift voor economische en sociale geografie* (Journal of Economic and Social Geography).

Leiker, K. Attended the American Meteorological Society Meeting for Weather analysis and forecasting, Chicago, Ill June 28-30, 2015.

Ndegeah, S. is working with the Lambert Academic Publishing on the modali-

ties of publishing his Ph.D. dissertation into a book. The dissertation is titled "Peri-urbanization in a globalizing world: a retrospective evaluation of the complexities of geospatial urban growth and planning in the Nairobi Metropolitan Region, Kenya."

Neog, D. has paper submitted to the 56th annual conference of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning to be held in Portland Oregon (Nov 3-6, 2016)

Terzano, K., & Morckel, V. (2016). SimCity in the Community Planning Classroom Effects on Student Knowledge, Interests, and Perceptions of the Discipline of Planning. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 0739456X16628959.

Hur, M., Li, Y., and **Terzano, K.** (2015). Breaking the chain: Understanding the association between foreclosure intensity and neighborhood satisfaction. *Applied Geography*, 58, 7-17.

For more information, visit our department page at:

www.westfield.ma.edu/garp

How about donating
some money to our
scholarship fund at
www.westfieldalumni.org
Be sure to specify
GARP Fund

Alumni Spotlight

Zachary Palmer, English Major Class of 2017 reached out to some of our graduates to get a more detailed update of life after Westfield. Here is what he found.



Stephanie Lenhardt (2015) is a Transportation Planning Technician working for SRPEDD (Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District) in Taunton, MA and graduated Westfield State in 2015. SRPEDD is a regional planning agency that serves roughly 27 cities and towns in Southeastern, MA. She provides assistance to these communities by undertaking studies, making recommendations and advising in the areas of physical, social, and economic development. SRPEDD provides Lenhardt with a rewarding sense of helping a community through her work with them. She managed to secure her job with them ten days after graduating Westfield State University in her most interested field of Transportation Planning after first being a Transit Planning Intern. She now takes advice from co-workers that have backgrounds in a vast variety of different experiences and knowledge that she receives everyday.

Some tasks she performs are her being randomly assigned a bus ride throughout their Regional Transit Agency where she monitors and surveys passengers boarding and alighting of the assigned outbound or inbound trips. As an intern she mainly collected field data as part of the bus stop inventory which is a survey of every bus stop for GATRA and SRTA buses in the towns and cities of Middleboro/ Wareham/ Taunton/ Raynham/ Fall River/ New Bedford/ Swansea/ Norton/ Attleboro/ Westport/ Dartmouth/ etc. She then would write up a report that would be sent out to various other Regional Planning Agencies summarizing the importance of this particular project.

She is dominantly in the Transit field but participates with the collection efforts on various projects in the Transportation Planning (Highway) section of SRPEDD. She helps perform Traffic Counting, Turning Movements Counts, and Signal Warrants. She also performs administrative work for GATRA and SRTA Consumer Advisory meetings as part of their public participation as well as doing administrative work for the Joint Transportation Planning Group and Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization. Some challenges she faces are the safety precautions when doing field collection and deciphering transportation/planning acronyms that seasoned planners toss around the office rapidly on a daily basis. Lenhardt has two main bosses that she answers too, the Director of Transit Planning as well as the Transportation Planning Manager. Then there is the two supervisors in the Transit department who have helped educate her in the field since starting there almost a year ago.

The path she took to get to her current position following Westfield State was more of a stroll. She saw a job advertisement in an email sent out to GARP students, sent out her cover letter and resume, got a phone call, had a phone interview, then had a final interview, and then two weeks later was offered the job. In Westfield, the classes that Lenhardt found to have a huge impact on her were ones taught by MJ Bull. Having her classes helped drive her to care about her grades and her work ethic that she would need for her future career. Some advice that she would give to current GARP students is that even if you're not doing immediately well in your courses, don't assume the major isn't for you. Lenhardt didn't find her "ah-hah" moment until I was a second semester senior taking Transportation Geography and it was the first class she got an A in and felt as though it was effortless. GARP is a line of work that has such a wide variety of career options and that no matter how defeated you may feel sometimes, you should keep trying because in the end, it'll be worth it.

Robert Haramut (1991) is a Senior Transportation Planner for the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments and graduated Westfield State University in the year of 1991. For his job, Haramut currently runs a small MPO (staff of eight currently). They have seventeen towns and a population of about 180,000 and are in three different urbanized areas that create FHWA/FTA and state programming and funding challenges. They are the first MPO in the nation created by the merger of two former MPO's, which was also a challenge for all those involved. Experiences at Westfield State that best prepared him for his job had to be preparing for deadlines and the writing skills that he would need to write his documents. After graduating college he figured that he would be a town planner, but began work at a regional planning organization, then started doing transportation work rather than land use and now he



runs the MPO operations.

Directly after Westfield State he went to SUNY- Albany and received his MRP in 1993. When he began his former job, he had an informal mentor from another regional planning organization in the area that he would often call for assistance until he knew how to perform the required tasks because there was no one else in his office that could help him. What he finds most rewarding in his job now is the end result of the planning process. For example, a community group may want to create a new multi-use trail. He works with the group, go through a public involvement process, develop a plan, get the plan approved by the MPO, find and receive funding, design the project, bid the project, and construct the project. It is rewarding to see a project through from start to finish, and when people are pleased with the results.

If he were to take any other classes going back to Westfield State, it would be the fact he would take some more engineering classes. Some advice Haramut has for current GARP students is to take any job in the field as your first job. You may want to be a town planner but may end up as a transportation planner, transit planner, community planner, land use planner, environmental planner, town manager, etc. You never know where the starting path can lead too.



Alvin D. Allen (2005) is currently in the position of Senior Planner for the City of Springfield's Office of Planning and Economic Development and graduated Westfield State University in the year of 2005. His responsibilities for his job include assisting residents and business owners through the processes of permitting, such as zoning ordinance required special permits and site plan review. Additionally, he assists residents and business owners through the process of obtaining Historical Commission approvals for exterior work to historic structures. Furthermore, he creates various maps as requested by constituents and he attends, facilitates meetings for their Planning Board and Historical Commission.

Some challenges he faces are helping constituents meet application deadlines to ensure that projects are not held up, which could potentially cost people time and money. Other challenges include dealing with disputes between neighbors. In his position, he does not have any sort of supervisory role outside of when we may get interns, which he is usually asked to oversee. What he finds most rewarding about his job is the fact he is working for the citizens of the community he was born and raised in. His two internship placements and particular classes such as Geographical information Systems and Legal Issues in Zoning helped prepare him for his job the best while at Westfield State.

If he were to go back, he would like to study and work in some aspects of the legal field. Coming out of college, Allen is exactly where he was hoping to be. However, he has been thinking of a potential career change, as he is still in the same position at his first job post-graduation. For him, the repetitiveness of the job has gotten to him, now he would just like to do something completely different. Following graduation from Westfield State, he interned at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC). His biggest mentor, of someone knowledgeable of the field of Regional Planning, was Kerry Noonan, whom he had previously interned with at the former Hungry Hill Community Development Corporation.

When it comes to advice for current GARP students, Allen says to make sure to pickup an internship, if possible, to see professionals at work to help figure out what aspect of Regional Planning you would want to specialize in. That way you can help narrow down the field you would like to pursue a career in.

WE'RE MOVING!



The GARP department is moving our GIS Computer Lab and Physical Geography Lab over from Bates to Wilson Hall this summer. The Bates labs had been in place since the early nineties. The Physical Geography Lab will share space with Planning Studio style instructions while the computer lab will support our computer based teaching for GIS, Remote Sensing, Quantitative Methods and other GARP classes.



Our 33rd Class of Regional Planners!



REGIONAL PLANNING

Andrew John Alcombright
Caleb Nathaniel Alvord
Kyle Edward Barna
Michele Alyce Brooks
Patrick John Burns
Michelle R. Coombs

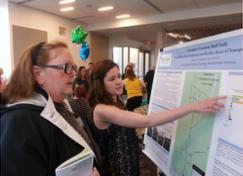
Georgiann April Clayton *
Troy Alexander Durr *
Rebecca Nicole Glennie
Kane Richard Hardaker
Alexander Joseph Herchenrder
Mathieu Thomas Kolensky *

Jacob Lehan
Stephanie Marie Lenhardt
Meghan Judith McNamara
Cindi Marie Muszynski
Michael Anthony Orellana
Brian Christopher Raymond

Daniel Robert Sabetti
Brien Spier
Jack C. Thornton IV
Erin N. Walters *



CELEBRATE
PATHWAYS
TO EXCELLENCE



Chelsey Pousland (REPL 2017)
presented her research
"Columbia Greenway Rail Trail:
Providing a Safe, Dedicated and
Healthy Route of Transportation

More Alumni News



2015 Outstanding Women In Business:

Roberta Brien, Worcester Business Development Corp.

Roberta is a 1994 regional planning graduate and started working as a transportation planner for the Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District, then as a commercial real estate broker, and then for the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management & Maintenance. Known for her strategic thinking, problem-solving and strong leadership by example, Brien has been a driving force in developing the CenTech Park in Shrewsbury, the Hanover Theatre in Worcester, and the 20 Franklin St. project for Quinsigamond Community College.

