The GARP Faculty presented the third Stephanie B. Kelly Regional Planning Award to Graduate Rebecca Talamini (REPL 2015). This cash award was renamed to honor our friend and colleague Prof. Stephanie Kelly who retired in 2012. Rebecca graduated with a dual major in Regional Planning and Environmental Science and Minors in Applied Geography and GIS. Her Senior Seminar project was titled “New Orleans Post Katrina: An Assessment of Rebuilding and Resiliency.” Prof. Conz notes that “Rebecca has been the backbone of the Environmental Planning Club for the past 3 years.” Congrats to Rebecca for earning this cash award!

Morse, Muszynski and Smialek earn Academic Excellence

From left to right: Robert Bristow, Rebecca Talamini (with check), Sarah Morse, Cindi Muszynski, Alexandra Smialek and Interim President Elizabeth Preston.

Sarah Morse finished her course work in December 2014 and is a dual major in Regional Planning and Environmental Science. She presented research titled “Design Inventory: Holyoke, Massachusetts” at the SNEAPA meeting fall 2014.

Cindi Muszynski also is a double major and plans to work as a Game Warden or Environmental Police Officer. Her Site Planning Studio project developed an environmental center for Westfield.

Alexandra Smialek is a member of the WSU Honors Program and has presented at several conferences. She is entering the UMass MRP program in the fall. Ola is presenting Participation in Transit: Analyzing Low-Income Women's Experiences with Public Transportation in Springfield, MA at the APA Region I meeting in June.
Honorary Degree Awarded to Timothy Brennan

As many interns and alums know, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is an excellent off-campus experience for our program. Recognizing this important link, WSU awarded Timothy Brennan with an honorary degree at Commencement in May. As executive director of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) since 1980, Timothy Brennan oversees a public agency that serves as the Commonwealth’s designated regional planning body for 43 cities and towns in Hampden and Hampshire County. The PVPC’s agenda in the Pioneer Valley is complex and expansive. Mr. Brennan and the PVPC have provided wise stewardship of the region’s resources and steady advocacy for community priorities at the state and national levels.

GARP Faculty Research

Marijoan Bull served as team leader for national APA Community Planning Assistance Team to Harts- ville, SC. She led team in conducting public outreach, field work, interviews, and research to prepare report: “South Hartsville Heritage Alive: A Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy.” (See: https://www.planning.org/community assistance/teams/hartsville/)


Robert Bristow, Co-authored a Program Review of Geography Department at Keene State with Jan Smith (Shippensburg University)


Karl Leiker continues to report on current and future weather for the region with his Kansas humor and his meteorological expertise. Email him at kleiker@westfield.ma.edu to get his weather reports.


Stephanie Kelly, Emerita, works for the non-profit, Dining for Women (DFW) a US based organization that awards grants to women's groups. DFW is a giving circle founded by Marsha Wallace who decided to give the money her friends usually spent at a restaurant to local projects in her area. http://diningforwomen.org

William Bennett was awarded emeriti status this past year.

Prof. Ndegeah joins GARP faculty

Joining our faculty this fall is Samuel Ndegeah. He has defended his dissertation in Geography from the University of Idaho.

His dissertation title “Peri-urbanization in a globalizing world: a retrospective evaluation of the complexities of geospatial urban growth and planning in the Nairobi Metropolitan Region, Kenya.”

Prof. Ndegeah also has a MA in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Nairobi, Kenya, and a MA in Geography from the same University.

Prof. Ndegeah will be teaching World Regional Geography and Cultural Geography in the fall. His future teaching will include Cities of the Global South and he plans to expand our globalization courses.

Our newest faculty was highlighted in the Mount Holyoke News. Read it at http://mountholyokenews.org/2015/03/14/faculty-profile-the-great-kenyan/
Congratulations to:
Julia Mary Amero
Philip Raymond Ashley
Taylor L. Balfour
Ryan Timothy Daley
Samuel Diego DeMatteo
Mark William Difore
Thaddeus Christopher Dobek Jr.
Evan Michael Drake
Michael Eric Fant
Timothy Patrick Grady
Alexander J. Herchenreder
James Michael Johnson
Justin Patrick Kennedy
Jacob E. Lehan
Stephanie Marie Lenhardt
Victoria E. Levite
Sarah Marie Morse
Cindi Marie Muszynski
Alexandra Maria Smialek
Rebecca Lynn Talamini
Nicole Jenna Wrenn

Several REPL students presented research at the Celebrate Pathways to Excellence Fund Raiser in May. Representing us were:

Kane Hardaker (2016) “Accessibility of Farmers Markets in Hampden County.”

Alumni News

1980s:
Greg Guimond (1984), is the Town Planner at Marshfield, MA.
Paul Mission (1985) is the Transportation Planning Manager at SRPEDD.

1990s:
Staci Hulsberg (1990) is the Director of Planning and Development at Village of Glen Ellyn, IL.
Peter Bryanston (1991) Division Director of Community Development in Enfield CT.
Rob Haramut (1991) is Senior Transportation Planner for The Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments.
Joe Liquori (1992) is a FAA Aircraft Inspector. Paul Materazzo (1996) is Director of Planning in Andover, MA.
Chris Dunphy (1996) is the Manager of Community Development at PVPC. Daniel Montagna (1999) is named Operations Director at the UMass Center in Springfield. Roberta Brien (1994) is the Vice President of Projects, Worcester Business Development Corp. Melissa Santucci Rozzi (1998) is the Principal Planner in Braintree, MA.

2000s:
Heather Cantillon Smith (2000) is a Dispatcher at ME-MA.
Shayne Trimbell (2004) is Director of Transit Planning at SRPEDD.
Sarah Zingarelli (2006) is a Planner at Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.
Matthew Benoit (2005) is the Town Planner in Auburn, MA.
Ryan O’Connell (2007) is the Assistant Director of Student Life at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Carolyn Cronin (2008) is Assistant Planner in Hooksett, NH.

2010s:
Andrew Golas (2010) is Executive Assistant in Palmer, MA.
Patrick Deschenes (2014) is a GIS Technician for the Worcester DPW.
Marianne Iarossi (2010) is Planner in Framingham, MA.
Ashley Eaton (2013) earned her Masters in Urban and Regional Planning from Portland State University this spring!
Nathan Wojcik (2012) served as Juror and is a Project Manager in Bonacquisti Brothers Construction in Albany NY.
Kyle Richard (2014) is a transportation Planner at SRPEDD.
Robert Blackie is a Zoning and Permitting Specialist at SAC Wireless in Chicago.

What about you?
The #SaveTheGlobe Initiative was created after the campus community was heart broken by the destruction of the campus’s center piece after the Super Bowl win of the New England Patriots in February 2015. Interim President Elizabeth H. Preston challenged the students to come together and find a way to fundraise for a new globe and the students have risen to that challenge. The Geography and Regional Planning department matched this effort with a $1,000 donation from our endowment. Hopefully our students can help design a new globe that reflects our program’s contribution to global education.