

## Department of Urban Studies and Planning

### Highlights

The past year provides good evidence that the only constant in urban planning is change. Since our last report, we have experienced significant changes at the departmental level (including the transition from long-standing department head Larry Vale to new-to-MIT Amy Glasmeier) as well as at the national and global levels (a new president with ambitious new plans, a global financial meltdown with far-reaching implications). As is characteristic of the field, the Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP) has responded to these events by embracing opportunities while being mindful of challenges. In particular, this spring new DUSP head Amy Glasmeier convened two special committees to advise her on future directions for the department: the DUSP 2015 Committee, concerned with setting long-term strategic goals for the department, and the MCP 2010 Committee, whose goal was to explore and suggest more immediate ways to rearticulate the department's curriculum, learning objectives, and internal organization.

In its final report, the DUSP 2015 Committee identified the following three themes:

- Environmentally sustainable/ecologically resilient urban and regional development
- Social justice—poverty alleviation and equitable economic development
- Governance—complex decision making and policy implementation

Also mentioned were the following emerging areas for research and education: technology and urbanism; planning for aging and disabled populations; regional development; planning for post-suburbia; and holistic city theory and planning.

The report called specific attention to a list of “Essential Skills and Competencies” to stress in the degree programs, including:

- Communication skills—writing, speaking, visual communication;
- People skills—leadership, negotiation/facilitation, management of planning and policy processes, working in teams;
- Design skills—physical planning, land-use planning, urban design, transportation planning (literacy, if not full competence); and
- Critical thinking skills—hypothesis forming and testing through data collection and analysis, evidence-based planning, policy analysis, the ability to challenge conventional wisdom, quantitative and qualitative analytic methods that go beyond conventional, reductionist techniques.

### DUSP's Contribution to MIT-Wide Efforts

The “Responsive City” Group continued its lunch series in fall 2008. At these weekly meetings, faculty and researchers from across the Institute discussed the evolution

of new technologies for planning and city building, coordinating real-time data and ambient urban information to visualize and manage urban places in more cost-effective, humanistic, and energy-efficient ways.

The ongoing Jerusalem 2050 project, jointly sponsored by DUSP and the Center for International Studies (CIS), continued to offer a unique perspective to conflict resolution by asking participants to envision new, innovative methods and structures to transform Jerusalem into a just and sustainable city for its inhabitants. In August 2008, the four Just Jerusalem Competition winning teams (nine members total) came to MIT as “Jerusalem visionary research fellows” for the fall semester to work with DUSP and CIS faculty on transforming their ideas into detailed and implementable plans. Additionally, a number of lectures were held in the fall and spring with joint sponsorship from other departments and programs.

For the sixth consecutive year, DUSP participated in the China Planning Network’s “China Week” in Beijing and Chongqing, which included an urbanization summit and a number of special forums. Former Australian prime minister John Winston Howard made a keynote speech at the opening ceremony; other speakers included Ji Baocheng (president, Renmin University), Yuan Si (vice president and provost, Tsinghua University), Bo Xilai (party secretary, Chongqing municipality), Wang Hongju (mayor, Chongqing municipality), Xie Zhenhua (vice minister, National Development and Reform Commission), Qiu Baoxing (vice minister, Ministry of Housing and Urban/Rural Development), and Li Xiaohong (president, Chongqing University).

DUSP’s involvement in the MIT Energy Initiative (MITEI) continues to expand. Harvey Michaels, along with two graduate resident advisors, examined the benefits of aggressive building efficiency policies for carbon emissions and energy prices as part of the Future of Natural Gas Study. MITEI seed funding was extended to Judy Layzer for a new course on sustainability and to Carlo Ratti for MIT-wide energy benchmarking. In addition, Jonathan Raab’s 11.369J Energy Policy for a Sustainable Future class brought efficiency-oriented policymakers to DUSP, while Phil Thompson worked with students to determine ways to use efficiency stimulus funds to create green jobs. A student-run effort led by the Community Innovators Lab (CoLab) analyzed efficiency stimulus funds, and the results of that analysis were presented at a recent MITEI faculty meeting on energy research funding sources. Elsewhere, DUSP participated in efficiency elements of the Engineering Systems Division’s MIT-Portugal Program (David Marks), the Media Lab’s Intelligent Infrastructure for Energy Efficiency Project (Neil Gershenfeld), and Richard Lester’s efficiency-focused Innovation Pathways Project (Industrial Performance Center). Amy Glasmeier serves on the MITEI educational task force and as the advisor for the new undergraduate minor.

Chris Zegras continues as the leader of the Transportation Systems Focus Area of the MIT-Portugal Program, a multiyear research and educational program involving several Portuguese universities and MIT departments. As part of the MIT-Portugal Program, researchers from MIT and Portugal are collaborating on a model-based data fusion initiative, an element of the larger “CityMotion” project that aims to develop a knowledge infrastructure, computational models, and user applications that integrate heterogeneous real-time information about transportation-related resources.

Dennis Frenchman, with DUSP lecturer Michael Joroff and William Mitchell of the Media Lab, continued a cross-campus interdisciplinary research effort involving design of the “Digital Mile” in Zaragoza, Spain, as part of the New Century Cities initiative. They also continue to serve on the international advisory committee for the project along with distinguished visiting professor Manuel Castells.

Frenchman and Mitchell also finished work on “Technology, Livability and the Historic City: Florence,” funded by the Commune di Firenze. The project resulted in a technical report published in the US and a book, *Technological Imagination and the Historic City*, published in English and Italian by Ligouri. The project investigated how 20th-century infrastructure could be replaced with 21st-century digital technology to enhance the economic and social base of historic cities without compromising their physical form.

Amy Glasmeier was asked to join the planning and research team of the President’s Council on Regional Engagement. This project provides advice to president Susan Hockfield on the development and facilitation of a committee of corporate leaders engaged in planning efforts between MIT and industry to foster regional engagement. The project will develop a white paper on opportunities for MIT and the business community.

### **Research and Teaching on Urban Planning**

The intellectual life of the department is organized largely around the activities of four program groups and several cross-cutting research initiatives. The program groups are City Design and Development (CDD); Environmental Policy and Planning (EPP); Housing, Community, and Economic Development (HCED); and the International Development Group (IDG). We have also designated Urban Information Systems (UIS), Transportation Policy and Planning, and Regional Planning as cross-cutting initiatives intended to bring together faculty from across the four main program groups.

### **City Design and Development**

The CDD group, led by Dennis Frenchman, has had a very busy and eventful year, with news to report on teaching, publications, and a number of special events.

Dennis Frenchman and Chris Zegras were recently awarded a \$650,000 grant from the China Energy Foundation to develop tools and prototypes for energy-efficient city form and real estate development in China. Work is beginning this summer on what we hope will be a long-term relationship. Also in China, last summer the Beijing Urban Design Studio investigated the redevelopment of one of the world’s largest steel plants (it was closed for the Olympics). All of the work of the Beijing Studio from 1985 to 2008 was published in Chinese and English in *The Beijing Joint Studio: 20 Years of International Cooperation by World Architecture*.

CDD also sponsored a speaker series on “Landscape and Urbanism,” a new concentration of study in CDD, which highlighted work of current DUSP professors and brought visitors to campus over the year.

In spring 2009, Tunney Lee and his planning studio students returned to China’s Pearl River Delta, where they have worked since 2005 on issues of sustainable neighborhood

development. An interdisciplinary group of planning and architecture students undertook extensive research on selected topics and tested them through hypothetical replanning of an existing project, Vanke Town, a 50-hectare housing development.

Susan Silberberg-Robinson taught the department's 11.001J Introduction to Urban Design and Development and (with Karl Seidman) 11.439 Revitalizing Urban Main Streets courses. She has been named the associate director of "Space for Change," a new national initiative funded by the Ford and MetLife foundations that recognizes, rewards, and promotes successful artist space development projects and emphasizes the role affordable artist space projects play in community revitalization and socially progressive community development. She also is continuing research for her work on "The Secure City: Changes in Perception and Design of Public Space Post 9/11," which has been funded by a Boston Society of Architects Research in Architecture Grant.

Terry Szold, a long-standing faculty member, was promoted to adjunct professor of land use planning in the spring. Szold and Eran Ben-Joseph completed the fourth of five neighborhood plans for the city of Lowell. In addition, Ben-Joseph's studio 11.304J Site and Infrastructure Planning completed a manual for "ecologic-oriented development and infrastructure design" based on work on Tama New Town outside of Tokyo. Ben-Joseph also organized the 50th anniversary of the department's PhD program.

Larry Vale completed his six-year run as department head and has been enjoying a well-deserved sabbatical. He is continuing his work on public housing, preparing a comprehensive book reviewing the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOPE VI program. Also over the past year, he was awarded the Ford chair, previously held by Lang Keyes.

### **Environmental Policy and Planning**

EPP saw its graduate applications almost double this year, partly in response to the success of the MIT-US Geological Survey Science Impact Collaborative (MUSIC), which attracts environmental scientists who want to learn to work at the intersection of science, politics, and public policy. MUSIC received a new general support grant from the US Geological Survey as well as research support for postdoctoral and doctoral students from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Bureau of Reclamation, and the Dutch TNO. MUSIC students and staff organized the Maryland "Coast-Smart" campaign jointly with the Maryland governor's office to broaden public engagement in efforts to manage the risks associated with climate change. MUSIC participants also worked in the Everglades on efforts to model strategies for adapting to the risks of climate change. With support from MIT's Energy Initiative, EPP faculty helped put new undergraduate and graduate courses in place addressing energy efficiency and the environmental and political effects of energy development. The Environmental Planning Certificate Program graduated its second class of five certificate recipients.

Lawrence Susskind edited (with Larry Crump) a four-volume set titled *Multiparty Negotiation*, published by Sage in 2008, the first comprehensive review of the theory and practice of multiparty (as opposed to two-party) negotiation. Volume 2 of the set includes a number of reprints of some of Susskind's most important writings on

public dispute resolution. Also, Potomac Press published Susskind's *The Cure for Our Broken Political Process* (coauthored with Sol Erdman), and Harvard Business Press published *Built to Win: Creating a World-Class Negotiating Organization* (coauthored with Hal Movius). Susskind jointly coauthored versions of *Breaking Robert's Rules* that were published in Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Portuguese, Dutch, and French.

Susskind also offered a new campus-wide doctoral seminar on "Green Technology Innovation" and organized the MIT Faculty Environmental Network for Sustainability. More than 75 members of the MIT faculty from across all five schools are working to develop a new undergraduate minor in environment and sustainability and a new interdisciplinary certificate of advanced graduate study in environment and sustainability. Finally, through the interuniversity Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School (that MIT helped to found in 1982), he cochaired the first international conference on mediation pedagogy, which attracted almost 200 teachers and trainers from 20 countries.

JoAnn Carmin continued to offer a number of courses, including 11.233 Research Methods for Policy Analysis and Planning, 11.368 Environmental Justice and Participatory Governance in Developing Countries, and 11.951 Urban Climate Adaptation and Justice. She prepared a background paper on "Government Institutions and Innovations in Governance for Achieving Climate Adaptation in Cities" (with Debra Roberts and Isabelle Angelovski) for the World Bank's 5th Urban Research Symposium.

In addition to coordinating MITEI efforts between DUSP and the rest of the Institute (as described above), Harvey Michaels offered two new courses: 11.168 Enabling an Energy Efficient Society in the fall and 11.946 Energy Efficiency in the spring.

Judith Layzer was awarded tenure. Layzer's latest book, *Natural Experiments: Ecosystem Management and the Environment* (MIT Press, 2008), explores seven cases to determine whether and how ecosystem-based management results in more environmentally beneficial policies and practices than the conventional regulatory approach.

### **Housing, Community, and Economic Development**

This past year was an important transition year for HCED, as we marked the retirement of two long-standing intellectual leaders of the group, Lang Keyes and Marty Rein, and welcomed Amy Glasmeier to DUSP and HCED. In addition, we were extremely proud of Xavier de Sousa Briggs' new role as associate director of the White House Office of Management and Budget and his appointment to the rank of associate professor with tenure. In light of the twin economic and financial crises, HCED organized a speaker series titled "Déjà Vu All Over Again" to look at how lessons from the 1980s recession might inform policy responses today.

Karl Seidman, head of the HCED program group, was reappointed senior lecturer in spring 2009. Karl continued his work with DUSP students in several courses focused on New Orleans. Students in his fall subject, 11.437 Financing Economic Development, worked on a financing plan for a new health center, designing programs to assist small construction firms and figuring the best way for a local community development



corporation to help residents finance the purchase of new homes they are building. In the spring, he cotaught 11.439 Revitalizing Urban Main Streets with Susan Silberberg-Robinson, in which 14 MCP students prepared a revitalization plan for the city's St. Claude Avenue Main Street. Seidman also published "Economic Recovery from the 9/11 Disaster: Lessons from New York State's Response in Lower Manhattan" in the *Journal of Applied Research in Economic Development*, completed work on a five-year strategic plan for Coastal Enterprises Inc. in Maine, and completed a market study for the commercial district of Boston's Hyde Park.

This year also marked the launch of the NOLA Fellows Program, through which four DUSP students are working on one-year projects with community-based organizations in a number of New Orleans neighborhoods. Karl Seidman coordinates this project. In addition, HCED faculty maintained their active engagement in improving the wellbeing of low-income communities, continuing our long-term partnerships in Lawrence and Springfield, and began to look at ways to help shape the design and implementation of new policies of the Obama administration. Phil Thompson was active in a coalition to secure a large federal commitment to job creation through equitable investments in energy efficiency and alternative energy and taught a course this spring on implementation of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (stimulus bill) programs.

Eric Klopfer has begun several new projects in the Scheller Teacher Education Program and Education Arcade. These include two National Science Foundation grants: Community Science Investigators, a partnership with the Missouri Botanical Gardens centered on using augmented reality games and geographic information system (GIS) technology to help middle school students understand science issues in their communities, and Transactive Art: An Inclusive Game-Based Programming Context, a partnership with Indiana University to introduce interactivity into narratives in a 3D virtual world. The program has also embarked on a second year of the Simulations, Systems and Computational Literacy project focused on partnerships with the Boston Public Schools through funding from the Linde Foundation.

Also in the Teacher Education Program, the foundational courses—11.124 Introduction to Teaching and Learning and 11.125 Exploring K–12 Classroom Teaching—are now Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Communications Intensive courses.

Lorlene Hoyt and Ezra Glenn teamed to offer two courses focused on the city of Lawrence, including a practicum class in the spring exploring a major mill redevelopment project (in partnership with Lawrence Community Works and a number of DUSP alumni). Hoyt was promoted to associate professor without tenure effective July 2008. (Glenn also taught the department's core course, 11.220 Quantitative Reasoning and Statistical Methods for Planners.)

Frank Levy was on sabbatical for the year, as a visiting faculty member in the Department of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School. While there, he studied attempts to control the growth of health care spending on medical imaging, a project supported by a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Investigator Award. In October, he gave the annual Herbert Abrams Lecture to Radiology Grand Rounds at Brigham and

Women's Hospital, where he discussed the way digitization has undermined contact between the radiologist and the ordering physician and the negative consequences that have followed.

Lorenz Goette (formerly senior economist at the Boston Federal Reserve Bank) filled in for Frank Levy during his sabbatical. Goette taught the required 11.203 Microeconomics and 11.202 Planning Economics courses before leaving to accept a position at the University of Geneva.

Lynn Fisher completed a new report for the Rappaport Institute examining the results of Massachusetts' Chapter 40B law, which allows affordable housing projects to be granted an exemption from local land use regulations in communities that fail to meet state affordability targets. The report is based on a survey of 144 cities and towns in the Boston area assessing which kinds of projects are built with little controversy, which are substantially delayed, and which are never built. Fisher was promoted to associate professor without tenure effective July 2008.

### **International Development Group**

Diane Davis continued this year as head of IDG, working closely with faculty in CIS on the Jerusalem 2050 project (discussed above) and on a new transuniversity initiative titled "Urban Resilience in Situations of Chronic Violence." Partner institutions and faculty from Geneva, Utrecht, Manchester, and Washington, DC, have joined together to study adaptation to chronic violence in cities in conflict.

During the year Davis offered keynote lectures at Trinity College and in Barcelona; gave invited presentations at Princeton, Harvard, Boston University, the University of Montreal, the Graduate Institute in Geneva, and the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington; advised the United Nations Development Programme and the Social Science Research Council on the creation of a new Global Centre for Research on Gender, Crisis Prevention and Recovery; and started a two-year term as a member of the Scientific Panel of the European Research Council in its Advanced Investigative Grants Program, Panel SH3 (Environment and Society: Environmental Studies, Demography, Social Geography, Urban and Regional Studies).

Davis also completed an edited book manuscript (*Cities and Sovereignty: Identity Conflicts in the Urban Realm*) and contributed chapters in books published by Duke University Press, Routledge, Oxford University Press, Sussex Academic Press, and the Woodrow Wilson Center Press. Her most recent publications include "Non-State Armed Actors, New Imagined Communities, and Shifting Patterns of Sovereignty and Insecurity in the Modern World" in *Contemporary Security Policy* and "Ciudad Global: Un Concepto en Transición" (with Gerardo del Cerro) in *Ciudad y Territorio*.

Alice Amsden was appointed by the United Nations secretary general to a three-year seat on the UN Committee on Development Policy, a subsidiary of the UN Economic and Social Council.

Annette Kim published *Learning to Be Capitalists: Entrepreneurs in Vietnam's Transition Economy* (Oxford University Press). Also, her doctoral student Georgeta Vidican won the department's Best PhD Dissertation Award in 2008 as well as the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning's Gill-Chin Lim Best International Dissertation Award. Kim was promoted to associate professor without tenure effective July 2009.

Balakrishnan Rajogopal was granted tenure effective July 2008. Karen R. Polenske has been awarded MIT's DeFlorez chair.

Visiting professor and former Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies (SPURS) research fellow Daniel E. Esser taught 11.947 Urbanization and Development during the spring semester. Participants included a current SPURS fellow and three doctoral candidates, as well as two MDesS students from the Harvard Graduate School of Design. (When not at DUSP, Esser is an assistant professor of international development at American University.)

### **Urban Information Systems**

UIS research and teaching continues to examine and shape the growing impact of information and communications technologies (ICT) on urban planning, metropolitan governance, and our sense of community. ICT has greatly facilitated the capacity to study neighborhood-scale planning interventions and to understand and model the key factors that influence urban spatial structure and use patterns. Advances in information technologies have also enabled the location and spatial interaction of people, buildings, and events to be tracked, modeled, visualized, and manipulated as never before. The result has been a rapid growth of new opportunities and risks.

Some UIS-related research has already been described above under the various program groups and centers. UIS-affiliated faculty have also been researching collaborative information infrastructures for community and metropolitan planning, new models of urban spatial structure and land use and transportation interactions, and improved methods for participatory planning. Most of these projects have involved master's students, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program students, and PhD students, and several have provided the real-world context and partners for class projects, workshops, and seminars.

Michael Flaxman was on leave this spring, but he continues to work with several projects in the MUSIC program and the UIS group. In addition to revising the MCP core courses in GIS this past year, he traveled to Costa Rica to continue work on spatial analysis and alternative futures modeling and coordinated work on habitat conservation and global warming in the Greater Everglades.

### **Transportation**

Chris Zegras was on leave in spring 2009, but he continues his ongoing research into the travel behavior of older adults in suburban residential communities. Working with Eran Ben-Joseph and Joe Coughlin at the MIT AgeLab, the team examined aging baby boomers' travel behaviors and neighborhood design preferences in four different urban edge neighborhoods in the Boston metropolitan area.



## Graduate Degree Program Enrollment and Activities

The department's graduate programs enrolled 66 new MCP students, five new SB/MCP students, one new SM student, and 19 new doctoral students in the 2008–2009 class. Of these 91 incoming students, 30 were international students (33%), 51 were women (56%), and 15 were students of color (16% of the total, 25% of domestic students). The department granted 73 MCP, 4 SM, and 7 PhD degrees.

For the 2009–2010 admissions cycle, the total number of applications was up sharply. The following chart summarizes the number of students who applied, were admitted, and are expected to enroll next fall in comparison with the previous year. In response to issues raised by the chancellor and current budget exigencies, we reduced the size of the incoming MCP class to better match financial aid with current student needs.

Graduate Programs						
Year of potential enrollment	Applied		Accepted		Enrolled	
	08/09	09/10	08/09	09/10	08/09	09/10
MCP (including dual and SB/MCP)	301	431	113	91	71	64
SM	1	7	1	4	1	3
PhD	107	136	28	14	19	11

In January, Xav Briggs went on leave and Joe Ferreira stepped in as chair of the MCP committee. At the last meeting of the year, the committee approved a resolution to grant departmental "practicum credit" for the MUSIC program.

The PhD committee continued to advocate for and to allocate financial resources and to make sure that admitted students would indeed enroll in our program. The fall 2009 incoming class will enroll 11 new doctoral students across the department's program groups and cross-cutting initiatives, which represents a return to past levels. (The fall 2008 class was the largest in some time, with 17 students.) The committee continued its support of a regular, once-a-week afternoon social gathering for PhD students and faculty and arranged two town hall meetings to discuss issues and ideas.

DUSP continued to publish *Projections*, the journal of the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning. *Projections 8* ("Justice, Equity, and Sustainability"), edited by Isabelle Angelovski, Anna Livia Brand, and Rachel Healy, was published in the fall semester. The student editorial team has completed *Projections 9* ("Planning for Sustainable Transportation: An International Perspective"), which is due to be published in summer 2009. A call for proposals has been issued for the next volume, with an expected publication date of early 2010. (For budgetary reasons, as well as to improve graphics and increase the frequency and timeliness of the production, the department is anticipating a shift to online publication of the journal for future issues.)

In 2008, the following dissertations were completed:

- "Impacts of Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Policies on Agricultural Land," Xiaodong Wang (2008)

- “Institutional Arrangements and Land Reallocation During Transition: A Regional Analysis of Small Farms in Romania,” Georgeta Vidican Sgouridis (2008)
- “Constructing Community: Class, Privatization and Social Life in a Boston Mixed Income Housing Development,” Erin Michelle Graves (2008)
- “Reinventing VAT Collection: Industry Vertical Assessment, Revenue Increase, and Public Sector Reliability,” Monica F. Pinhanez (2008)
- “The Relative Risk: Parenting, Poverty, and Peers in the Three City Study of Moving to Opportunity,” Gretchen D. Weismann (2008)
- “Transfers and Path Choice in Urban Public Transport Systems,” Zhan Guo (2008)
- “Regional Catalytic Economic Impacts and Noise-Damage Costs of Aviation Growth,” Ryan Tam (2008)
- “Institutional Perspectives on Road Pricing: Essays on Implementation, Response, and Adaptation,” Anjali Mahendra (2008)
- “Why Some Were So Fast While Others Not: Speed of Entry as a New Competitive Asset in Late-Industrialization,” Jooyoung Kwak (2008)
- “Recovering the Wall: Enclosure, Ethics, and the American Landscape,” Brian Thomas Oles (2008)

### **Undergraduate Program Activities**

During 2008–2009, the Undergraduate Committee continued to work on raising the visibility of DUSP among MIT’s undergraduates. Seven freshmen declared an urban studies and planning major this year (down from a high of 11 in 2006–2007 but still part of an overall upward trend).

Now in its third year, Phil Thompson’s 4.001J CityScope class focused on planning for the federal economic development stimulus spending, with special attention to the potential of “green retrofitting” projects. This course was cotaught with Karen Polenske. Another major attraction of DUSP for undergraduates is the 11.027 City to City subject, taught by Cherie Abbanat. This year 12 students traveled to Panama City to compare urban design, architecture, and city planning issues and problems there with those found in Boston.

Robert Fogelson continued to offer his two-semester 11.013J American Urban History course, introducing students to the physical, social, architectural, and economic history of cities, ranging from political machines, police departments, courts, schools, prisons, and universities to parks, zoos, housing, suburban development, downtowns, and skyscrapers. He also offered his long-running 21H.104J Riots, Strikes, and Conspiracies in American History and 21H.234J Downtown courses.

In August 2008, the department participated in MIT’s Freshman Pre-Orientation Program, offering 15 new freshmen a three-day “Discovering Urban Studies and

Planning” session designed by Judith Layzer and Ezra Glenn. A similar orientation program is being planned for summer 2009.

## Awards

Our students received a large number of awards this year from the Institute, national and international organizations, and the department.

### Departmental Awards

- Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis: Margot Spiller (“The Implications of Improved Access to Public Transportation: The Green Line Extension”)
- Outstanding MCP Thesis: Hannah Creeley (“Creating an Asset Management Model for Massachusetts State-Aided Public Housing: A Study of Policies and Practices to Inform the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development”); honorable mentions: Andres Lajous (“Universal Pensions in Mexico City: Changing Dynamics of Citizenship and State Formation in a Global City”), Frank Hebbert (“Local Travel Habits of Baby Boomers in Suburban Age-Restricted Communities”)
- Outstanding PhD Dissertation: Brian Thomas Oles (“Recovering the Wall: Enclosure, Ethics and the American Landscape”)
- Departmental Service Award: Connie Chung
- Outstanding Contribution to the Intellectual Life of the Department: China Planning Network (Ming Guo, Zhan Guo, and Jinhua Zhao; Larry Vale, faculty advisor), Ninad Pandit
- American Institute of Certified Planners Outstanding Student: Alexa Rosenberg
- Rolf R. Engler Award for Outstanding Service by Support or Administrative Staff: Phil Sunde
- O. Robert Simha Prize: DUSP Food Policy Group (Todd Schenk, Christina Santini, Laurie Tamis, and Deborah Morris)
- Urban Design Certificate: Shutsu Chai (dual), Connie Chung, Catherine Duffy, Joshua Fiala, Gordon Hansen, Blair Humphreys, Natsuko Kikutake, Deborah Morris, Elinor Stege, Sarah Snider, Victoria Wolff, Kathleen Ziegenfuss
- Environmental Planning Certificate: Anna Bromberg, Jennifer Edwards, Carolyn Hayek, Rachel Henschel, Nathan Lemphers
- William Emerson Travel Award: Manjula Amerasinghe, Karin Brandt, Anna Bromberg, Roberto Guerreo Compean, Omari Davis, Sonam Gayleg, Eric Gonzalez, Yang Jiang, Austin Kilroy, Cha-Ly Koh, Allison Lassiter, Atul Pokharel, Alexis Schulman, Matthew Totilo (fall); Wanli Fang, Andrew Gulbrandson, Yu Min Joo, Deepak Lamba-Nieves, Topher McDougal, Steven Moga, Lynn S. Pyun, Annis Whitlow Sengupta, Lakshmi Sridaran, Yuan Xiao (spring)
- Lloyd and Nadine Rodwin Travel Award: Manula Amerasinghe, Karin Brandt, Sonam Gayleg, Eric Gonzales, Andrew Gulbrandson, Jason Jackson, Deepak Lamda-Nieves

- Excellence in Teaching: Aseem Inam
- Excellence in Advising: Eran Ben-Joseph
- Contribution to Student Life: Ezra Glenn

### MIT Awards

- Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture Travel Grant: Bernadette Baird-Zars (“Visions of Revitalization in Syria”), Alexa Rosenberg
- CIS Summer Study Grant: Topher McDougal
- DUSP-Public Service Center Career Development Summer Internship Program in International Public Service: Andrea Alejandra Betancourt, Derek Brine, Karla Renata Flores, Yang Jiang, Alexander Keating
- DUSP-Public Service Center Fellowship: Alexa Rosenberg, Yang Jiang
- Martin Family Society of Fellows for Sustainability: Kathy Araujo
- MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI) Travel Grant: Eric Mackres, Leanne Farrell
- MISTI Anthony Sun Fellowship: Nicholas DuBroff
- MIT Alumni Class Fund Grant: Graham Denyer Willis
- MIT Carroll Wilson Award: Graham Denyer Willis, Roberto Compean
- CIS Summer Grant: Nah Yoon Shin, Yuan Xiao
- MIT Ralph Adams Cram Award: Ritesh Warade
- MIT-India National Science Foundation Award: Eric Mackres, Leanne Farrell
- MIT-Japan International Studies Fund: Yuan Xiao, NahYoon Shin
- MITEI Society of Energy Fellows: Ingrid Heilke
- School of Architecture and Planning Harold Horowitz Student Research Fund Award: Alexa Rosenberg
- Hugh Hampton Young Memorial Fund Fellowship: Derek Brine
- Kelly-Douglas Summer Traveling Fellowship: Diana Jue

### External Awards

Four different student teams from DUSP and the Center for Real Estate were awarded first, second, third, and honorable mention prizes in the Federal Home Loan Bank’s 2009 Affordable Housing Development Competition. First place went to Daniel Daou, Laura Delgado, Haley Heard, Aditi Mehta, Kristin Simonson, Chris Gaude, and Sam Lee (“Chinatown Crossing”). Ross Gammill, Yuxuan Huang, Andres Sevstuk, John Sullivan, Lindsay Smith, Sara Dabbs, and Michael Rosa (“St. Polycarp Village”) took second place. Third place went to James Madden, Sole Mendez, Jasmina Beanovic, Michelle DeYoung, and Dan Fograse (“Uptown on Dudley”). Finally, Bernadette Baird-Zars, Jason Korb,

Rimi Chakraborty, Nathan Allen, Ben Veghte, Jay Tapia, Bryan Russett, and Ricardo Solórzano (“The Village at South Chelmsford”) received an honorable mention.

Other external awards were as follows.

- Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Don Schon Award: Amy Stitely
- Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Gill-Chin Lim Award for the Best Dissertation on International Planning: Georgeta Vidican
- American Planning Association Charles Abrams Scholarship: Danielle Martin
- American Planning Association Housing and Community Development Division Research Award Program: Jeffrey Beam
- Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute National Graduate Scholarship: John Arroyo
- Ford Foundation Minority Predissertation Award: Mia White, Deepak Lamba-Nieves (alternate)
- Fulbright Fellows: Nicholas DuBroff, Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner (alternate)
- Gallatin Doctoral Fellowship: Topher McDougal
- National Science Foundation Predissertation Fellowship Award: Mia White
- National Trust for Historic Preservation Mildred Colodny National Graduate Diversity Fellowship: John Arroyo
- Outstanding Student Paper Award, American Geophysical Union: Beaudry Kock
- Presidential Management Fellows Finalists: Alexa Rosenberg, Amit Sarin
- Rappaport Public Policy Fellow: Laura Delgado
- Urban Land Institute Gerald D. Hines Student Urban Design Competition (honorable mention): Blair Humphreys, Jesse Hunting, Sarah Snider, Duncan McIlvaine (MARCH candidate), MIT team members; Eric Komppa (University of Wisconsin); Tunney Lee, advisor

### **Outreach to Alumni**

Local alumni continued to play an active role in sponsoring internships for students, providing career advice at the alumni career forums organized by each of the program groups, and participating as guest lecturers in numerous classes. Alumni across the country offered summer positions for current students and served as employers for recent graduates. Alumni also continue to play a role in the implementation of the practicum requirement, a significant element in the revised MCP core curriculum.

In fall 2008, alumni again assisted in DUSP student recruitment efforts by organizing an open house in Los Angeles and participating in other graduate school recruitment events around the country. Departmental receptions held at the annual conferences of the American Planning Association and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning provided venues to catch up with alumni from across the country. Also in the fall, the



department worked with several New York City alumni to host a two-part symposium (“NYC@DUSP” and “DUSP@NYC”) that brought together current students and New York alumni first on campus and then on location in New York City.

On December 2, over 80 people gathered at the MIT Museum to hear a panel discussion reflecting on the 50th anniversary of the PhD program. In attendance were representatives from the past five decades, including panelists Lang Keyes (PhD 1967), M. Christine Boyer (PhD 1972), Tee Taggart (PhD 1981), Eric Jay Dolin (PhD 1995), and Yan Zhang (PhD 2004).

DUSP continues to maintain connections with alumni across the country. The reformatted monthly electronic newsletter, SA+P DUSP News, reaches more than 80% of our alumni, is well received, and has prompted numerous updates from alumni on their personal and professional lives.

Alumni once again participated as panelists in each of the four annual alumni career forums associated with the department’s four program groups. In spring 2009, they participated in an additional panel focused on strategies for starting or resuming one’s career in a down economy. The DUSP career resources website continues to serve alumni and current students seeking continued professional development. The site meets the needs of potential employers of DUSP students and graduates as well.

This past year DUSP significantly expanded the options for alumni to stay connected with each other and the department by promoting a number of online DUSP communities, including LinkedIn, Facebook, and the “Great DUSP Meet Up.” The department also provided outreach for alumni organizing events. In spring 2009, nearly 150 alumni responded to a request for ideas about future directions in the field of planning and the department over the next six years.

The department proudly presented the seventh annual Excellence in Public Service Awards to Roxanne Figueroa (MCP 2004) and Charu Singh (MCP 2006).

### **International Connections**

In 2008–2009 SPURS hosted a total of 17 midcareer fellows from around the world (11 as part of the Hubert H. Humphrey Program sponsored by the US Department of State) including Afghanistan, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Estonia, Ghana, Korea, Kosovo, Turkey, Uganda, and Zambia. Their research interests covered a variety of areas, including transportation planning and policy, technological development and policy, urban development, public-private partnerships, geographic information systems, environmental policy, and human rights.

Our fellows continue to build strong connections with MIT undergraduates, particularly through our relationships with the International House and Simmons Hall. Activities included a far-ranging debate on the 2008 US presidential election, an international music concert, and a film festival. At DUSP, the fellows organized an intellectual mapping charette and a movie and discussion night in collaboration with the DUSP student forum that was well attended. SPURS also continues to collaborate with the midcareer

Loeb fellows of Harvard at the Graduate School of Design. The relationship between the two groups of midcareer fellows provides an opportunity for shared learning and comparison between domestic and international approaches to urban planning.

Students in Eran Ben-Joseph's 11.304J Site and Infrastructure Planning Studio completed a manual for "ecologic-oriented development and infrastructure design" that used Tama New Town outside of Tokyo as a reference. This project is part of a long-term collaboration between Japan's Sekisui House and the MIT School of Architecture and Planning formed in 2008 to envision, design, and build prototypical sustainable residential communities for society in the years 2030–2050. (For more information, visit <http://web.mit.edu/11.304j/www/japan/>.)

DUSP students enrolled in a special session of JoAnn Carmin's 11.368 Environmental Justice class prepared a background report for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) called "Enabling Environmental Justice: Assessment of Participatory Tools." The report is designed to support UNITAR's efforts to strengthen the capacities of public officials to effectively engage stakeholders in environmental decision making.

### **Community Partnerships**

Working through the Community Innovators Lab and the department's Practicum Committee, students and faculty have worked on client-based projects for communities around Massachusetts (Lawrence, Springfield, Boston, New Orleans, Lowell).

As described above, four student teams from DUSP and the Center for Real Estate were awarded first, second, third, and honorable mention prizes in the Federal Home Loan Bank's 2009 Affordable Housing Development Competition, which partners students with community groups around the greater Boston area. Winners are judged on the design, finance, and innovation of their proposals, which involve real sites and developer partners.

In June, Susan Silberberg-Robinson served as a panelist for the Common Boston Forum, which focused on designing the city for families.

### **Research Funding**

Faculty and staff raised \$4,299,246 in new sponsored funds for research and other projects in FY2009.

**Amy K. Glasmeier**  
**Department Head**  
**Professor of Urban Studies and Planning**

*More information about the Department of Urban Studies and Planning can be found at <http://dusp.mit.edu/>.*