DEPARTMENT NEWS

- The department celebrated the 30th Anniversary of Center for Rural Massachusetts (now the Center for Resilient Metro Regions) in March 2019. The celebration was facilitated by Robert Yaro, Harry Dodson and Elizabeth Brabec.

- The 6th Fábos Conference on Landscape and Greenway Planning, March 2019, featured 4 keynote talks and over 100 presentations. The topics covered include climate change and green infrastructure, urban forestry, spatial analysis, governance and implementation, social equity and justice, and cultural landscape preservation. The 2019 Proceedings and Book of Abstracts can be found scholarworks.umass.edu/fabos/

- The DesignIntelligence rankings for 2018 have rated our Bachelor’s of Science in Landscape Architecture (BSLA) program as #23 among the top 25 Most Admired Schools, and the undergraduate and graduate landscape architecture programs came in at #13 among similar sized programs in the category of Schools Most Hired by Firms. Read more at tinyurl.com/bslaid

- Our Master’s in Regional Planning program has climbed to #1 on a ranking of the top 10 programs for 2019 by the website bestcolleges.com. Read more at tinyurl.com/mrprated

- The department is seeking talented applicants qualified for an assistant professor of landscape architecture position. The search committee will begin reviewing applications on October 18, 2019. The search will continue until the position is filled. See umass.edu/larp for more information.

Background photo: Design Building Rooftop Garden by Ngoc Doan MLA ’14
Jenna Davis (MRP ’19) has been awarded a Holzheimer Scholarship by the Economic Development Division (EDD) of the American Planning Association (APA) for her paper “NYC’s Industrial Business Zone Program: Examining the Intersection Between Economic Development and Land Use Policy.” The paper was supervised by Henry Renski, associate professor of regional planning, and originated as a term paper for his class on graduate economic development theory and policy. The paper examines New York City’s Industrial Business Zone (IBZ) program, which provided financial incentives to industrial businesses to remain in New York and prevent land from being converted to residential and commercial use. However, the paper finds almost one-third of the incentives were given to non-industrial businesses located in IBZ zones, suggesting that program works at cross-purposes with its stated goal of industrial preservation. The article and award announcement can be viewed at tinyurl.com/davispaper.

Graduate student Ben Breger’s research on Massachusetts’ Greening the Gateway Cities Program (GGCP), an effort focused on planting thousands of trees in 12 communities in the state, was published in the journal Urban Forestry & Urban Greening. The research is sponsored by the Garden Club of America/Casey Trees Urban Forestry Fellowship. Together with collaborators at the Clark University, Breger examined the vigor and survival of 759 trees, while undergraduate Honors College student Madison “Sonny” Kremer interviewed 15 individuals from 10 stakeholder groups including local, municipal, and state actors. tinyurl.com/bregerpaper.

For the past five years, an oral history project in a course called “Transforming Your World: Introduction to Community Engagement” has worked to bridge that divide, by connecting students with the people who maintain their classrooms and dorms, prepare and serve their meals, and do other important but often unseen work to keep the campus operating. The class, taught by Professor Ellen Pader, works with the UMass Amherst Labor/Management Workplace Education as their community partner. tinyurl.com/scdssp

PhD student Lara Furtado presented her research describing the benefits of using a “Collaborative Community Workspace” model for equitable University-Community engagement at this year’s Urban Affairs Conference in Los Angeles.

PhD student Ruben Flores-Marzan was quoted in 2018 summer’s Lincoln Land Lines magazine about Puerto Rico’s recovery. While he is a doctoral student now, previously he was the president of the island-wide planning board. Read more at www.lincolninst.edu/publications/articles/category-4-complexity.

PhD student Marielos Arlen Marin won the 2018 Gill-Chin Lim Student Travel Award. The award is determined from students with an accepted paper to present at the ACSP Annual Conference with a focus on an international development/global planning topic or with a special focus on low-income countries of the global south.

Alumna Kate Tooke, Associate Principal at SASAKI, talks about the work of redesigning Boston City Hall Plaza with Boston Magazine. “There’s lots of room for improvement in how [the plaza] supports the city as a [place] that people can gather and be in on a daily basis,” Read more at tinyurl.com/sasakicityhall.

Alumna Cheri Ruane and Alumnus Michael Boucher were elevated to ASLA Council of Fellows. The ceremony will be held at the 2019 Conference on Landscape Architecture in San Diego in November. Read more at tinyurl.com/fasla19.

Alumnus Tim Brennan was awarded the 2019 Walter Scheiber Leadership Award by the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). Tim’s almost-half-century-long career with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) has also drawn to a close this summer. Read more about Tim’s achievements during his tenure tinyurl.com/brennan47. Please join us at the Oct 31’s Zube Lecture for Tim’s talk: “TRANSFORMATION IS THE AGENDA: The Planner’s Role Navigating Us to 2050 and Beyond”
Our department has lost a legend! Professor Harold ‘Hal’ Mosher passed away on October 3, 2019 at the age of 99. Professor Mosher was beloved by many students for his deep knowledge and love for landscapes, his genuine passion for teaching and his wry humor. His introduction to landscape ecology course was affectionately named as ‘Hiking with Hal’ by students. Link to Professor Mosher’s obituary tinyurl.com/profmosher.

UMass Extension Professor Michael Di Pasquale’s article about "Make-It Springfield" the collaborative workspace that began as a pop-up tactical urbanism project in downtown Springfield is featured in this month’s issue of “Planning” magazine. The community makerspace was started with LARP Ph.D. candidate Lara Furtado as part of their research studying the role that university-community partnerships can play in revitalizing America’s mid-sized “Legacy Cities”. Read more at tinyurl.com/makeitsp.

Professor Ethan Carr’s most recent book “The Greatest Beach: A History of Cape Cod National Seashore” was published in June 2019. Listen to his interview with Read Learn Live Podcast at tinyurl.com/greatestbeach.

Camille Barchers was hired as Assistant Professor of Regional Planning. Her appointment started in September 2019. Camille has practiced as a regional planner throughout Florida, the Southeast and mid-Atlantic. Prior to joining LARP, Camille taught in the Leadership Education and Development program at the Georgia Institute of Technology where she also received her Ph.D. in City & Regional Planning. Camille’s work examines how planners use technology and how it changes the way we engage with the public. Her research interests include big data applications for long-range planning, Internet communication tools, and land use planning.

Professor Elizabeth Brabec co-authors Climate Change Action Report presented at 43rd meeting of UNESCO World Heritage Committee. Elizabeth Brabec, who is also the director of the Center for Heritage and Society, served as one of the lead authors of the report. Her particular area of climate change research are the heritage issues in migration and displacement, and she is a member of the Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes. The work of the committee continues over the next year to expand research into the role of cultural heritage in climate change responses, and also integrate an understanding of cultural heritage with the work of the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging cultural heritage in climate action Outline of Climate Change and Cultural Heritage. tinyurl.com/ipccbrabec.

Top-ranked journals The Lancet Respiratory Medicine and Landscape and Urban Planning have published articles by Assistant Professor Theodore Eisenman that raise important questions about links between urban trees, air quality, and asthma. Listen to the NEPR broadcast at tinyurl.com/eisenmannepr.

FutureWATERS | AGUASfuturas, an art installation by Assistant Professor Carolina Aragón is one of 25 Art Projects worldwide featured in CODAmagazine. The art installation was a hand-made installation that visualized the projected 1% annual chance flood expected on the East Boston Greenway in 2030 and 2070. Read more at tinyurl.com/futureh2o. Carolina’s competition entry WeAVES: Energy Harvesting Textiles in Public Space was selected among the top 50 entries in the International Land Art Generator Initiative Competition. The project explored the incorporation of solar fibers and triboelectric textiles and was developed at UMass with collaboration with Chemistry professor Trisha Andrew and her lab. Learn more about the project at landartgenerator.org/LAGI-2018/weaves/.

Assistant Professor Michael Di Pasquale collaborated with local artists to install a new mural on a vacant wall in downtown Springfield. Professor Di Pasquale has been working on activating vacant and “leftover” spaces in
Charles Tooker ’53 Undergraduate Support Fund
- David J. Hooper (BSLA)

Paul W. Ryan Scholarship Fund
- Sophia M. Liquori (BSLA)

Paul Whitney Rhoades and Carolina Pree Rhoades Award
- Olivia A. James (MLA)
- Christopher D. Ramage (MLA)
- Bryce D. Lloyd (MLA)
- Alexandria L. Connell (BSLA)
- Emily E. Noonan (BSLA)
- Stephen M. Rezendes (BSLA)
- Claudia R. Namaroff (BSLA)
- Katina J. Decoulos (BSLA)

Robert Livingston Craig Scholarship Fund
- Samantha L Bowman (BSLA)

Thomas B. and Loraine K. LeNoir Scholarship Fund
- Maura Robitaille (BSLA)
- Georgina L. Duffy-Hetzel (SCD)
- Tianyi Guan (MLA)
- Tamsin I. Flanders (MRP)

Robert P. McGorum Scholarship
- Megan S. Davey (BSLA)
- Allyson N. Fairweather (MLA)

STAY CONNECTED

We'll host more alumni networking receptions this coming year, so check our Facebook or the website for announcements and join us. Please consider a gift to support our students, the department, or the design building. Our Facebook page, twitter, Instagram and our website give quick news updates and in-depth stories. When you have a job opening, send us the notice and we'll be thrilled to share it with our students and alumni. And send us your own news – we love to hear how our alumni are doing, and would gladly post onto the department social media for you.