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Chair's Corner

We have much to be thankful for as we look to the start of a new school year in August

By DR. JOHN WEST, Department Chair

The Department of Urban Planning at Ball State continues to excel at its core mission: Creating an educational environment where students learn that they can make the world a better place, using the tools of our profession.

This past year, through studio classes, students have created plans for solar fields in Delaware County, proposed revitalized downtowns in small towns, and appealed to the next generation of planning students through our high school workshop program.

At the same time, our students and recent alumni show that endeavoring to make the world a better place can also be a successful lifetime career. Ninety-six percent of our students found a good job in their field within a year of graduation. Some, like Elise Jones at Greater Fort Wayne, Inc., work in the public sector. Others like Alex Pope, at Meticulous Design and Architecture in Indianapolis, work in private firms. And others work in the dynamic world of non-profit, neighborhood-based planning, like Jeb Reece who works for Intend Indiana on neighborhood-scale revitalization.

I am also honored to work with a core group of faculty, Professors Deeg, Yoo, and Burayidi, who have been making our program excellent since before I joined the department. Our long serving instructor Chris Palladino inspires students every year and has led the effort to remake our real-estate development program. He tapped into our pool of amazing alumni to find instructors for six new classes in areas ranging from Transit-oriented Development to Storytelling and Data Visualization. I am particularly thankful to our new(er) faculty who have jumped in to provide excellent, real-world experiences for our students, including Nate Howard, Ehren Bingaman, Teresa Jeter, and Catherine Reynolds.

We look forward to continued success as we hire two new full time faculty members. Ruoran Liu will bring her wealth of knowledge about community-economic development to the department, and Teresa Jeter will join the program fulltime to share her deep knowledge about planning practice and her special expertise at bringing up our first- and second-year students.

Our revitalized alumni advisory group, led by Jake Dietrich has helped to guide the department's path, and provided important connections between students and ongoing planning work. All of us will be busy next year, as the department admitted its largest class of second-year students in recent history. In the coming years, I look forward to telling the stories of how these 21 new entrants to the world hone what’s special about themselves and use it to make the world a better place.

West was appointed to a three-year term as chair and earned tenure and promotion to associate professor during spring semester.
By LOHREN DEEG, Associate Professor

As part of the department’s ongoing efforts to increase undergraduate enrollment and diversity, the PLAN105 course launched this year as a PLAN498 elective entitled “introduction to physical planning.” Co-instructors Lohren Deeg and Catherine Reynolds examined an assortment of vacant / underutilized lots in the Riverside Normal City neighborhood of Muncie for a dozen students to choose as their semester case studies. Walks in the neighborhood and downtown introduced current topics of real estate, adaptive reuse, and mixed-use development.

Visits to the Bracken Library map collection introduced primary source research and gave insights into the neighborhood’s past history and land uses. Students modeled housing typologies from the Missing Middle Housing book by Daniel Parolek. Demographic data from ESRI, AARP, and WalkScore assisted their analysis. Students then embarked on an infill proposal for chosen sites, and learned a number of graphic techniques to present their visions. We look forward to welcoming a number of these bright students into the 2nd year this fall!
Planners among CAP honorees

Three planning grads -- Ehren Bingaman, Ben Thomas, and Abby Wiles -- were recognized at this year's ECAP awards program.

**Outstanding Alumni Winners**

Bingaman, BUPD 1999, is managing principal at Transpro Consulting and an adjunct instructor in the Department of Urban Planning. He is former executive director of the Fort Harrison Reuse Authority, executive director of CIRTA, and director of transportation planning at HNTB.

Thomas, BUPD 2009, is national manager of sustainability integration at GPT Group in Sydney, Australia. He believes that by working systematically and collaboratively on complex problems, we can create a better, more sustainable industry and world.

Wiles, MURP 2013, is executive director of the St. Joseph County Area Plan Commission, former president of Indiana APA, and project manager for Goshen’s 10-year comprehensive plan update.

Outstanding alumni are celebrated each spring for "outstanding professional success or achievement in their field of endeavor."

Nominations come from other alumni, faculty, and friends. The nominees accept their nomination by submitting materials for consideration.

**Graduate of Last Decade Winner**

Wiles, MURP 2013, is executive director of the St. Joseph County Area Plan Commission, former president of Indiana APA, and project manager for Goshen’s 10-year comprehensive plan update.

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Nominate a CAP grad for an award!

Annual recognition is sponsored by the college and its executive alumni board. Awards are given to alumni in three categories: those in the first decade of their career, those in the middle phase, and the long-timers who've had a substantial impact on the built environment. Nominations open each fall.
Electives add real-world application to Real Estate Development offerings

Six new five-week classes feature planning alumni working in the field

Each class will be offered in a five-week term, allowing students maximum flexibility and quick dives into each topic.

The classes are:
Economic Development Incentives taught by Aletha Dunston, director of economic development for Develop Indy.
Transit Oriented Development: taught by Ellen Forthofer, urban planning manager with the Downtown Denver Partnership.
Sustainable Development Principles taught by Derek Naber, vice president of Acquisition and Portfolio Management at New City Development.
Storytelling with Data Visualization taught by Sean Northup, deputy director of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning Organization.
Affordable Multifamily Developments and Finance taught by Caroline Kimmel, development director at Kittle Property Group.
Commercial and Mixed-use Real Estate Principles taught by Allie Rosenbarger, executive vice president of development at KennMar Real Estate.

Thank-you to Alumnus Chris Palladino

Chris Palladino wears many hats: he's an instructor of urban planning, a former housing developer, and the assistant director for capital planning and real estate development at Ball State. He holds two degrees: A BUPD from Ball State and an MBA from Butler. In his spare time, he worked with a number of real estate development professionals to craft the new course offerings. We are so grateful!
Ruoran Liu will teach economic development and related topics

Ruoran Liu is an incoming assistant lecturer in Urban Planning and Community Economic Development in the Department of Urban Planning beginning this fall. She will teach courses in economic development, community development, and quantitative methods, as well as the economic development and capstone studios. Ruoran is currently a PhD candidate in Urban Studies and Public Affairs at Cleveland State University’s Levin School of Urban Affairs.

Her research focuses on sustainable economic development in underprivileged places and communities. Her three-essay dissertation studies Shrinking City regions and traditional manufacturing industries from a technological innovation perspective.

During her doctoral study, Ruoran contributed to outreach projects providing decision support tools to the Cuyahoga County Workforce Board and to city and community leaders in Northeast Ohio. Prior to joining Ball State University and Cleveland State University, she completed a Master’s Degree in Urban Design and Regional Planning at City University of Hong Kong. In addition, she holds a bachelor’s degree in Urban Planning from China.

Ruoran has also gained practical experience as an urban planner, participating in various community revitalization projects in both urban and rural settings in China.

Alumni make awesome instructors!

This fall MURP grad Britt Redd will teach history and theory to undergrads enrolled in planning and other classes. BUPD grad and current IU law student Jeb Reece will co-teach our third-year studio class with Muncie Land Bank Executive Director Nate Howard.

The CAP Design Works summer program roared back this summer with 60 high schoolers in attendance. Planning grads Michael Terronez and Will Snyder were instructors!
Students visit Korea with Prof. Sanglim Yoo

By CLARISSA CARRIGAN, BUPD 2023

During my summer study abroad program in South Korea in 2023, as an urban planning major, I was presented with a remarkable opportunity to explore and analyze the urban landscape of this dynamic country. South Korea's rapid urbanization and unique approach to planning had always fascinated me, and this immersive experience allowed me to witness firsthand the innovative solutions employed to address the challenges of urban development.

One of the most captivating aspects of this journey was exploring the bustling metropolis of Seoul. I was particularly drawn to the city's successful integration of traditional architecture and modern infrastructure. It was inspiring to witness the harmonious coexistence of historic sites like Gyeongbokgung Palace and Bukchon Village with the towering skyscrapers that defined the city's skyline. I

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Continued: Korea with Dr. Yoo

also studied the city's transportation systems, including the extensive subway network and efficient bus systems, which played a vital role in shaping the city's mobility patterns.

Beyond Seoul, this study abroad program allowed me to visit various cities and regions, each presenting its own urban planning challenges and opportunities.

In Songdo, the first-generation Smart City, and Incheon Free Economic Zone, I observed how smart technologies and the Internet of Things were integrated into city management and disaster preparedness.

In Busan, I studied waterfront development strategies and witnessed the successful integration of coastal tourism, shipping industries, and residential areas.

The revitalization of underutilized port areas into vibrant public spaces and mixed-use developments showcased the city's commitment to sustainable urban regeneration.

This study abroad experience in South Korea was a transformative journey for me as a planning major. Witnessing the intricate balance between heritage preservation, sustainable development, environmental management, and efficient infrastructure in South Korean cities expanded my theoretical knowledge and deepened my understanding of urban planning in practice.

The friendships I formed with fellow students and professionals in the field provided valuable insights and networking opportunities. I returned home with a newfound inspiration and a broader perspective that will undoubtedly shape my future career in planning!

Far left: the Korean street market with many kinds of food prepared right in front of you. Top: visiting a palace and getting ready to watch the changing of the guard. Bottom: traditional Korean noodle soup with yummy sides!

Stay tuned! We're going to Mexico during fall field trip week!
A Planner in Israel
Dr. Burayidi connects history + planning on tour of Holy Land

By DR. MICHAEL BURAYIDI, Professor

I had the opportunity to spend two weeks vacationing in Israel right after the spring semester ended. It was meant to be a time for spiritual renewal but surprisingly it also provided me an opportunity for professional enrichment. For years, I had discussed in my history of planning lectures how Greek and Roman civilizations influenced the layout of US colonial towns. On my trip I was able to see these principles on display in the historical cities I visited.

Israel is a small country about the size of New Jersey. I traversed the country from Tel Aviv in the south to the ancient city of Akko in the north, and eventually made my way east to Aqaba and Petra in Jordan. Given the conflict between the Jews and Palestinians over land, one might think that Israel is a land deficit country. Far be this from the truth. The country is vast with open fields and lush agricultural land in the south and extensive undeveloped lands in the desert north. The conflict is thus more about geopolitics than about the availability of land.

I was also pleasantly surprised at the linguistic diversity of the country. While Hebrew is the official language other languages are spoken. Israel attracted immigrant Jews from all over the world since the country’s creation in 1948, and each group came with the language of the country of their origin. Therefore, Spanish, Russian, Portuguese, German, Italian, Dutch are among languages that one would hear spoken on the streets of Israel. As an African, I was particularly delighted to see Ethiopians, also called Beta Jews pretty much everywhere I went. Too bad they only spoke Hebrew and Amharic so I couldn’t communicate with them.

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In Caesarea

My tour took me to prominent ancient cities. Among these were the cities of Jericho, Jerusalem, Akko, Caesarea, Capernaum, Nazareth, Cana, and Bethlehem. I also visited places of biblical significance such as the Sea of Galilee (Jesus called his first disciples from here), River Jordan (where Jesus was baptized), Tabgha (where Jesus multiplied five loaves and two fish to feed five thousand hungry people), and Masada (a mountain plateau on which Herod the Great built his castles).

The cities I visited provided clues to how the successive dominant powers in the region from Persians to the Greek, Romans, Turks, Arabs, and the Crusaders made an imprint in the development of these cities. Of the many features that I observed, the following stood out: all the cities had walls that protected residents against enemy invasion, aqueducts brought in water from afar to serve city residents, public spaces and public facilities were centrally located, the grid street pattern was used to layout the cities, and there was no visible socioeconomic differentiation in neighborhoods where residents lived. No city fully exemplified these features than Caesarea.

Caesarea is at the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. It served as the capital of Roman Judaea in the 4th Century BC. It was founded and built by Herod the Great and grew to a population of 125,000 residents. Pontius Pilate had a residence in the city. Readers familiar with the Bible will remember that the apostle Paul was detained here for two years while awaiting his trial by Caesar in Rome. Caesarea had several features of a Roman settlement. Among the most prominent facilities in the city are the amphitheater where dramatic performances took place. Herod also built a hippodrome which was used for horse racing. It seated up to 10,000. Horse (chariot) racing was a dangerous sport and many racers died young participating in the event. It was therefore remarkable that Gaius Ducles lived to age 42 and made his mark as a chariot rider, becoming a multi-billionaire by today’s standard.

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The CBD had all the public functions of the city. In addition to the amphitheater and hippodrome, the public bathhouse, the treasury, and government functions were all centrally located. Because of civil strife, walls were built to protect residents. The most famous are the ancient wall of Jericho and the Western (Wailing) Wall of Jerusalem which was built, destroyed, and rebuilt several times depending on the proclivities of the governing power of the time.

The organizing feature of the cities was the road system. The Cardo was the widest and primary street running north-south of each city. Intersecting the Cardo at right angles and running east-west were smaller streets such as the Decumanus. Public buildings were located at the intersection of these streets, making them easily accessible to residents. Archaeological excavations have unearthed these streets in the old city of Jerusalem, Caesarea, and Tabgha. Residents of the cities lived in Domus, which are essentially residential houses, which are closely nested together in highly dense neighborhoods.

Water bodies such as rivers and lakes were important in the development of these cities. The Sea of Galilee, for example, not only provided a means of livelihood for fishermen, it served as a means of transportation between communities. It was and continues to be the primary source of potable water for most of Israel.

Caesarea prospered in part because the city was located on the Mediterranean Sea. Herod the Great built a port at the coast for the shipment of goods from both far and near. Kfar Nahkum, which literally means “the house of Nahkum” (or the Greek perversion Capernaum) is on the western coast of the Sea of Galilee and became a major population and commercial center. Jesus lived most of his adult life and ministered from here.

My vacation was reinvigorating and enlightening. As planners we can never get too far from the profession. So whereever your travels take you, just watch and observe. Reading a place requires that you make three observations: first, what is the nature of the street system, second, what buildings have residents constructed for their first, second and third spaces and how are these related in space, and third, what open spaces exist in the settlement and how are these used. Enjoy the relaxing and recreational benefits of travel, but don’t forget to also be professionally vigilant.
Department partnership with land bank results in spectacular GAship for MURP student

By JOE FILLENWARTH, MURP 2023

My graduate assistantship at the Muncie Land Bank has given me an incredible number of connections and career opportunities throughout the past year and a half. When I first started at the land bank, I didn’t even know what a land bank was. All I knew was that I had a desire to work in community development and to help develop affordable housing opportunities in Muncie. Throughout the time I have worked for the land bank, I have accomplished those ambitions and more, working alongside our executive director, Nate Howard, and non-profit groups like the 8Twelve Coalition.

For those who are unfamiliar with what a land bank is, land banks are organizations that acquire abandoned and blighted properties, clean them up both physically and legally, and maintain them until a new and responsible owner can be found. What sets land banks apart from other organizations is their emphasis on finding responsible owners for abandoned land rather than making a quick profit off of a sale. Without the vetting process that land banks provide, properties in lower income communities are often purchased by absentee owners due to their low prices, and this can be problematic to local residents’ ability to maintain site control.

Many states, like Michigan, New York, and Ohio, have land banks that function as parts of their city and county governments. However, Indiana has yet to pass legislation that would allow this to be the case in our state. Therefore, the Muncie Land Bank is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization. I think that oftentimes, when people think of graduate assistantships, they think of students providing professors with administrative support. However, my assistantship at the land bank has been the most hands-on, career-defining experience of my life.

The Muncie Land Bank is a tight knit organization, so there have been a number of opportunities for me to learn new skills alongside passionate community members within a productive setting.

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Apart from day-to-day property management responsibilities, my role at the land bank has allowed me to think both creatively and critically.

In August of 2022, the land bank acquired our first properties with houses, and I was involved in processing those structures and finding creative ways to maximize block-level impact through the rehab processes. I was also given the responsibility to work alongside web developers from the Cuyahoga Land Bank to develop a custom online property database for the Muncie Land Bank.

The Muncie Land Bank serves the City of Muncie, a constantly changing ecosystem, and as a result, I have learned not only about the city itself, but about how to strategically approach planning issues from the perspective of a non-profit organization. I have applied for, presented, and been approved for a zoning variance by the Delaware County Board of Zoning Appeals, I have presented organizational updates to the Muncie Redevelopment Commission and Mayor Dan Ridenour, and I just recently assisted Muncie Habitat for Humanity in conducting block level and structural surveys in the city.

Each of these career-defining opportunities were made possible by the partnership between CAP and the Muncie Land Bank. These experiences have not only helped me to develop professional experience and connections in the field that I am interested in, but they have also helped me to affirm that I have chosen the right career path.

"It’s always exciting to help Muncie residents develop the future of their neighborhoods. I’m excited to see how my professional life develops, and I am grateful to the Ball State Urban Planning program for presenting me with the opportunities I’ve had!"
Summer dreams of unconventional housing types

By ASHRA WICKRAMATHILAKA, MURP 2021

In a world where housing needs are constantly evolving, it is crucial to embrace unconventional housing options that can offer a sense of freedom, creativity, and sustainability. These examples remind me that home is not confined to a fixed location or a specific architectural style, but rather a space that reflects the values and aspirations of its inhabitants.

The floating house in figure 1 is located on West Pearl River, Mississippi. Owned by a single man, it has a bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, and living area. The owner's friends visit him once a week with groceries and other supplies. He uses gasoline for cooking and oil lamps to illuminate the house.

Once, when I rode a boat, he was painting the exterior. As the strong currents of the river shook the structure, he asked the driver to slow down the boat. There is no tax on the property which, according to him, enables him to enjoy the wetland and the sounds of the waves at night under the starry sky. Every summer, students from nearby universities visit the house to see and learn about his unique living experience.

During my boat ride along the scenic West Pearl riverbank (as depicted in Figure 2), my attention was immediately captured by a captivating sight: three exquisite houses gracefully perched upon sturdy pillars. The three families in them have electricity but limited sewage capacity. During summer, they renovate and repair their houses to minimize the potential damage during the rainy season. However, I would never regret living in a

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Continued: Summer Dreams

house where my front yard opens to a river, instead of a busy road.

The site at right (figure 3), located north of St. Louis County, consisted of a horse yard and several abandoned vehicles. Those who live in these vehicles had a small play area, a coffee table, and a chair outside, all made from recyclable waste.

I do not believe these exceptions fit into any traditional definitions of housing that planners take into consideration. I am uncertain whether the inhabitants chose to live in these conditions or not, but I believe it is worth exploring these unconventional housing and living experiences.

One of my friends, after securing a new job, made the unconventional decision of renting a vehicle and embarking on a cross-country journey, instead of renting an apartment and settling into a 9-5 routine. She now works remotely while traversing the country.

Her home on wheels undoubtedly provides her with a sense of tranquility and joy, surpassing that of many traditional stationary houses.

These unconventional housing arrangements challenge our preconceived notions of what constitutes a home. From the floating house to the houses on stilts and the makeshift dwellings in abandoned vehicles, they defy traditional building and zoning regulations. While some may view them as violations, others see each of them as unique and innovative solutions that provide a different kind of living experience.

These exceptions to the norm invite us to reconsider urban planning professionals' understanding of housing and explore alternative ways of creating homes that prioritize individual preferences and a connection with nature.

As planners, it is important for us to study and understand these exceptions to inform future policies and design approaches that accommodate diverse housing choices. On my next trip to Las Vegas, I hope to encounter the people who utilize the abandoned underground tunnel system to form a community!

High School Workshops

With our partners at the Indy DMD, we offered summertime workshops in Muncie and in Indy for high school students. Britt Redd, Craig Chigadza, John West, and Catherine Reynolds ran the sessions with help from awesome students Remy Locke, Dani Sipp, Jackie Servin, Grayson Cates, and Brenden Resnick.
The politics of urban trees

By DINUSHI SAMARASEKARA, MURP 2021

Despite the emphasis from experts on the importance of having more trees and forests in urban environments to combat climate change, we continue to lose large amounts of our urban forests and canopies. This implies that many people fail to notice the value of trees for the survival of humans and nature, as well as for the natural maintenance of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Although there are altruistic and tree-friendly groups working hard to protect the limited amount of urban trees we have and raise awareness about the importance of tree planting, it is unfortunate that many people still do not care. It appears that some politicians and powerful individuals across the globe use their power to clear-cut forests for unlimited economic gains and show leniency towards those who remove trees instead of helping those who make efforts to protect them.

Therefore, protecting existing trees and increasing the tree canopy in urban areas has become a multifaceted social and political issue that involves power and social justice rather than simply being an ecological issue.

For instance, Brazil’s new president, Lula de Silva, pledged to end deforestation in the Amazon following his election victory, as reported by Rosie Frost (2022) in Euronews. In contrast, however, we live in an era where politicians also make illiterate statements like the one made by a Sri Lankan politician who questioned the value of oxygen by asking, “Can we eat oxygen?” This statement was made in response to a government official who rightfully refused to comply with the politician’s unreasonable order to clearcut a precious native tree grove.

His motive behind this destructive act was to build a playground for his voters, merely to gain support for the upcoming election. Such actions support short-term political gain over the long-term well-being of the environment and its unique ecological treasures.

In this light, political leaders who support cutting down trees for the sake of building construction and aid illegal loggers and poachers solely for the purpose of gaining economic benefits and maintaining their position in power provide us with some insight into their concerns, values, and knowledge in respect of trees, the environment, human relations, and society as a whole.

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From time to time, people have painted their perceptions of trees based on the complex social, cultural, economic, and political factors that shape their decision-making on preserving, planting, caring for, and removing trees.

According to Jill Jones, author of American Forests (as cited in Yoder 2017), “at one point in American history, urban trees were considered only an economic commodity, but people later substituted their individualistic and patriotic meanings for urban trees in the act of planting.”

Throughout history, early religions and indigenous peoples around the world viewed trees as divine beings and treated them with the utmost care, understanding the value of trees for their communities. Red Indians treated trees and forests with great respect for their contribution to the survival of mankind but not for economic gain.

As illustrated by the famous speech of Native American leader Chief Seattle of Duwamish Valley (as cited in “Texts by and About Natives,” n.d.):

“Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.”

I believe Chief Seattle’s speech provides the most powerful portrayal to date of the interconnectedness of all living things, the vital role that trees play in our environment, and the need for humans to live in harmony with it. Despite many people turning a blind eye, his view of the trees around us resonates throughout the planet.

Over time, people have infused specific personalities, powers, and meanings into trees based on their scientific and physical characteristics as well as their social, economic, and environmental values. Certain trees hold religious value for particular cultures. For instance, the Bodhi tree, also known as the Bo tree or “Tree of Enlightenment,” is a tropical tree found in South Asia that is a sacred symbol for Buddhists because it is a symbol that represents the places where Lord Buddha was born, attained enlightenment or Nirvana, and passed away (“The Buddha under the Bodhi Tree,” n.d.). Bodhi trees were not exploited as a commodity because the ancient Asians believed that the cool breeze generated by the fine tips of the bodhi leaves emitted spiritual energy.

Incidentally, trees are used in the modern landscape discipline to politicize space and define places that emphasize social hierarchy based on the social, economic, wealth, power, clan, and education status of people who own or use the space: tall, symmetrical tree-lined streets near special public buildings and wealthy neighborhoods often signify majestic and grand character. Urban forests and green spaces designed in exclusive high-end real estate developments reflect the wealth and social status of their owners, politicizing the space by limiting access for those with lower social status. Some public spaces and private gardens express a sense of tranquility and prestige, maintaining the image and values of the ruling elite or dominant cultures. Therefore, the heterogeneity of urban trees
can also be viewed from a perspective that reflects social justice and equity. Certain disadvantaged communities have fewer infrastructures and other resources and, consequently, less access to the benefits of trees. Thus, the politicization of urban trees deprives many of their right to have quality air, clean water, and a friendly environment, which is a fundamental right.

Moreover, the decision-making process concerning the trees in urban environments is often controlled by modern priorities, competing interests, and the high economic gains of certain parties, despite the numerous ecological, social, and economic benefits that urban trees provide, even in the wake of such a massive climate crisis.

Therefore, many city policies, decisions, and guidelines regarding the protection, maintenance, selection, and removal of local trees are made to prioritize the needs of stakeholders, which politicizes trees.

However, we fail to quantify the immense environmental, economic, health, and social benefits that urban trees and forests have on the residents of an urban environment. In a nutshell, trees offer environmental benefits by sequestering carbon, toxic gases, dust particles, and other pollutants from the air, improving the quality of the environment, reducing the urban heat island effect and climate change, preventing soil erosion, reducing surface water runoff, providing shade and a cool breeze, preserving biodiversity, and providing food and habitat for wildlife.

Second, urban trees provide health benefits by having a positive effect on mental health problems such as stress and anxiety, creating pleasant and memorable urban spaces, improving physical health by providing shady trails and controlling noise and glare, preventing pollution, and thereby preventing respiratory and cardiovascular diseases (Schiller, 2015).

Thirdly, urban trees provide economic and social benefits by increasing property values, providing shade and beauty, keeping residents healthy, creating landmarks to provide a sense of community and place, producing attractive public spaces and opportunities for people to gather (such as flower festivals and bonsai), which attract visitors and their wealth to the city, saving residents money by providing people with long-term health, and reducing health care costs and energy bills.

Therefore, by engaging in inclusive and transparent decision-making processes that highlight the essential role that trees play in mitigating the impacts of climate change, supporting biodiversity, and enhancing the overall quality of life of all communities, we can minimize the negative impacts of the politicization of trees.

By working together to balance the needs of the community — from city officials to community groups to individual residents — we can ensure that our urban trees continue to thrive, providing shade, beauty, and vibrancy to our cities for generations to come with fairness and justice.

(See references, next page)
Thanks to YOU we netted $6,420 in April!

Generous alumni and friends came through for us big time on BSU’s annual fundraising day.

Donations of $6,420 help us help students with field trip expenses, site visits, supplies, and scholarships. Once again, our department had more donors than any other in CAP!

Alumnus Justin Randall, BUPD 2006, won our random drawing of donors and social media posters, receiving a puzzle made from an award-winning drawing by Prof. Lohren Deeg.

Familiar faces teaching in CAP

We are getting closer to fully staffed after three retirements!

Dr. Teresa Jeter (top), MURP grad and frequent instructor, returns full-time this semester, teaching studio classes and PLAN 100.

Retired professor Dr. Eric Kelly (bottom) continues this fall, too, teaching law classes part-time.

We have an ongoing need for part-time help in CAP first year classes. Email us at planning@bsu.edu if you are interested!

Urban Trees: References


Know a prospective MURP student? Refer them to us!

Do you know a prospective student who would be a good fit for the Master of Urban and Regional Planning Degree?

We value your ability to identify prospective students who are passionate and can contribute to and benefit from our program. There is no limit on the number of students you can refer.

Click on the red pin to visit our referral page, or click here