



Harvard University Graduate School of Design

February 2017

Dear Alumni,

As we welcome the New Year, I am excited to share with you some updates from the Master in Urban Planning Degree Program, as well as highlights from the previous term. I am also pleased to outline some of the new ways for MUP alumni to network with each other and current GSD students seeking mentorship and professional advice. It is my hope that this newsletter helps you to feel more connected to the GSD--both the work that goes on here at Gund Hall, as well as the vast network of MUP alumni doing incredible work around the world.



ALUMNI NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

As Program Director, I often hear from students that they are eager to network with alumni practicing in their region or field of interest. A **new tool from Harvard**, the [Online Alumni Community](#), makes it possible for the first time for students to directly connect with alumni. It also provides the opportunity for alumni to develop a robust profile to network with fellow alumni from across all Harvard schools. **Instructions** for how to create and maintain your profile are available in this short video:



LinkedIn is also a great resource to connect with fellow alumni and stay current with GSD news. Follow the [GSD on LinkedIn](#) and join the official [GSD LinkedIn Group](#) (your membership request will go directly to Meryl Golden, Director of Career Services, who will verify that you are a GSD graduate and then approve your request). We also have an official [Harvard GSD Urban Planning & Design Group](#) that MUP alumni can join. These are fantastic forums to share career-related knowledge, information, referrals, and advice with the GSD community.

This fall, **Rick Krochalis MCP '78** and **Trevor Johnson MUP '14** stepped forward as co-organizers of an informal network of GSD Planning alumni. They are interested in helping alums come together for unofficial meet-ups in various cities around the world. If you would like to **organize an alumni meet-up in your city**--at an office, a restaurant, a bar, or a home--please contact Rick (rickkrochalis@comcast.net) and Trevor (t.arthur.johnson@gmail.com).

In addition, the Master in Urban Planning Program is looking for other ways to connect urban planning students with alumni. This spring semester, we will have **current students interview alumni** to highlight your work and your experiences as a former MUP student. Please contact **Mayu Takeda MUP '18** at mtakeda@gsd.harvard.edu if you are interested in being part of this project.

CURRICULUM AND FACULTY UPDATES



Core studios remain an important component of the planning education at the GSD. This fall, students focused their work on neighborhood analysis, idea generation, planning, and communication, with particular attention paid to the city of Boston. Students also participated in a range of provocative **option studios** tackling topics from fair housing in [St. Louis](#) to urban strategies for Buenos Aires' [Retiro Area](#). During the spring semester, the [core urban planning studio](#) will center on a real-world problem in a diverse community. Last year's project in Quincy focused on redevelopment around three rail stations in this increasingly immigrant community (see highlights from last year's [project](#)).

Planning faculty continued to engage in research on some of the most pressing and most complex problems of our time. Current faculty news, including recent publications, awards, and links to some of the research initiatives and studies being led by GSD planning faculty, is available [here](#).

SAVE THE DATES

On **March 23, 2017** from 6:30-8:00 pm, the GSD will host a panel of alumni leading planning departments across the country for a public lecture entitled, "[The New Allure of the American City](#)." The event will be moderated by Alex Krieger MCPUD '77, Professor in Practice of Urban Design.



American Planning Association

This year's **APA National Conference** will take place **May 6-9, 2017** in New York City. Watch your email for updates about activities for Harvard planning alums, including a [GSD Alumni Reception](#) on Monday, May 8, 2017, at 6:30 pm.

Please also check the [GSD events calendar](#) for updates on these programs and other planning related events scheduled for the spring semester.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

More online resources for MUP alumni can be found here:

[Grounded Visionaries](#): The Harvard Campaign for the Graduate School of Design

[Alumni Events](#)

[GSD Alumni Council information](#)

[Master in Urban Planning Website](#)

[Urban Planning and Design Facebook Page](#)

[GSD Facebook Page](#)

For departmental questions, email Sara at sgothard@gsd.harvard.edu.

For Alumni Relations questions, email alumni@gsd.harvard.edu.

With best wishes for a healthy and productive New Year,

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